

**Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting  
James Harmon Community Center  
Thursday, February 13, 2020 8 PM**

**Minutes**

**In Attendance:**

Commission: Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Gene Calamari, Anjali Chen, John Dailey, David Downs, Mike Jacobs, Angela Reeve. A quorum is in order.  
Aaron Podhurst (Superintendent), Lisa O'Reilly (Recreation Assistant, Camp Director)

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Public Comment -**

Valerie Harmon, High Street, Hastings. Asked to share a public comment, but will reserve until after tonight's discussion of pool and camp.

Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo acknowledged the attendance of members from HoH Skate and invited public comment. She noted that the proposed skate park was not on this evening's agenda.

**3. Old Business**

- January meeting minutes adopted.

**- Chemka Pool - budget and Spray Pool - update**

Spray Pool was filled with water and tested to ensure the basin is level and there is even perimeter overflow. The liner is scheduled to be replaced this spring.

Permit applications are in the process of being submitted to Westchester County Health Department and we are on schedule to open for the 2020 season in May.

Val Harmon, former director of Chemka Pool (now retired) - is here to offer public comment as it pertains to the pool operations. In her role as pool director in summer 2018 she started to notice the amount of aquatic staff required to support our Hastings Recreation Camp (Day and Early Learning). Her primary concern is that Camp should really cover the cost of aquatic staff.

Commission members discussed that it is reasonable to increase membership fees to cover the rising cost of minimum wage, and members support the notion that Camp should cover the aquatic staffing costs directly associated with supporting that program's use of the pool. David asked if there was a way to directly track the costs of staff supporting the camp program so that could be reflected in the budget submission. Aaron said they would track that for 2020. Up to this point, Camp "pays" \$20k to the Pool budget for cost of staff supporting camp's use of the pool. In 2020, we will plan to increase that \$20k contribution to reflect the actual cost of supporting Camp at the pool.

Camp fees were discussed. Lisa O'Reilly shared cost summary and enrollment numbers for 2019 and noted that registration fees have not been increased in many years. However the costs of running the camp has seen a steady rise, including materials, supplies, outside vendors, the increase in minimum wage, etc. Aaron noted that for many Recreation departments, Camp is a source of revenue for a rec department. However, in Hastings' case, Camp strives to cover costs.

After discussing pool, camp, and the relationship of the two, Commission members were asked to vote on:

Camp registration fees - 7 Commission members vote to keep registration fees the same for 2020 (noting the full season is five weeks this summer due to limited availability of the school facilities)

Pool Membership fees - 7 Commission members vote to support a 5% increase in pool membership/permit fees. (Senior pool permit fees to remain \$99 / season)

Camp contribution to Pool - Commission supports a \$30k contribution from Camp revenues to be transferred to the pool budget after the 2020 season. Aaron will track the actual cost of aquatic staff supporting camp so we can reassess that contribution after the end of the 2020 summer season.

**- Uniontown Park / Zinsser Park - tree update**

Aaron reported that he conveyed the Commission's concerns about the status of the trees at both these parks to the Village Manager, who is exploring funding for tree maintenance. Aaron took our direction to have specific trees at specific parks looked at, and several companies have been out to give quotes. He shared that it has been difficult to get an "apples to apples" comparison as not all companies share the same opinion as to what work needs to be done.

Aaron reminded the Commission that a grant application has been submitted to first identify/inventory trees at specific Village locations. The Village will then put in for a grant to take action to address what action needs to be taken.

The Commission would like to know from the Village Manager what this Commission's role is as it pertains to trees located in Village parks. Anjali Chen questioned what criteria are we going to use when asking tree companies to give quotes on work to be done. Mike Jacob questioned Pulver Woods and Rowley's Bridge Trail being Village sites specified in the grant application, and Anjali noted those sites were included as the grant was related to the Hastings Trailways system.

Aaron will follow up with the Village Manager.

**- Hillside Woods - update**

We are in the process of identifying a very detailed "task list" and Aaron will be in charge of that, identifying time frames and responsibilities. There is an upcoming meeting scheduled with David, Anjali, Aaron, the Village Manager and the Mayor.

David stressed that we need a general contractor to take the overall plan and keep things moving forward. Anjali offered that the forest management plan provided by Land Beyond Sea was so high level, and stressed that a lot of learning has been occurring during this initial phase of removing invasives, and that has been positive.

David asked Anjali about the proposed demo site within Hillside Woods (dimensions, RFPs for fencing of a demo site, cost, and noted that cost would come out of the fencing budget). This will be among the things to discuss at the upcoming meeting.

#### 4. **New Business**

##### **- Upcoming / New Programs**

{Info on current programs for preschool, school age, adult and seniors can be found at [www.hastingsrecreation.org](http://www.hastingsrecreation.org)}

- **Summer Camp - registration fees** (was discussed earlier this evening along with pool related discussions)

- **Resolution to adopt a shade structures policy for Village-owned properties**  
{reference handout from Anjali Chen}

Anjali was asked by the Village's Climate Task Force to convey this resolution to the Parks and Recreation Commission, noting that the resolution applies to Village-owned properties. Mike shared that the verbage "When replacing a mature tree, two trees be planted, ...." is a bit vague... ie, we should define "mature tree."

#### 5. **Meeting Adjourned, 9:50pm.**

\* NEXT COMMISSION MEETING - March 12, 2020

Meeting minutes prepared by A. Reeve

February meeting minutes adopted: May 21, 2020

*Noted that due to the COVID-19 health crisis and NY on Pause shutdowns, no Parks & Recreation Commission meetings were held in the months of March or April 2020.*