MEETING MINUTES
Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
February 10, 2022 (Thursday) - 8:00pm - via ZOOM

Commissioners in attendance: Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Gene Calamari, Aaron Golembiewski, Mike Jacobs, Amy Listerman, Angela Reeve. A quorum is in order.

Also in attendance: Aaron Podhurst (Superintendent), Raf Zaratzian (Technology Director), Anthony Costantini (Village Clerk)

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment

Melissa Marsh - Hastings Swarm Parents - sent an email to Commission regarding the need to begin planning and coordination of the needs of the Rec Departments swim team (Hastings Swarm). The parent boosters are aware the pool incurred damage from Hurricane Ida, and is aware that there will be a change in staffing for the Pool Director position. Swim team parents want to begin a conversation and hope to get on the Commission’s agenda for next month.

3. Old Business

- Approve January minutes approved

- Skate Park - update
The Board of Trustees did approve the P&R Commission’s recommended site of the Burke Estate for the location. The Village Manager and attorney met and discussed the Inter Municipality Agreement (IMA). The school district’s attorney is revising the IMA with some of the changes. The school district has provided HoHSkate a letter that specifies Burke as the location as this would be needed to explore fund raising avenues with the Westchester Parks Foundation.
Mike Jacobs reports that quite a bit has gone on behind the scenes in the past few weeks. HoHSkate is awaiting the approved IMA to move forward. The group can then get the design started (which Mike reports that the group has had a generous offer for the donation of the design work). They will need a topography survey of that area before the design can get started. The group has reached out to Maureen Caraballo for this. Hopefully within a couple weeks, HoHSkate will have a couple proposals to have more detailed survey work prepared.
Nicole Miziolek (HoHSkate), Mike, and a rep from the Tony Hawk foundation discussed the proposed project by phone, and during those discussions the rep advised that it would be important to get a person in the Village in the position to say “yes” to help push or nudge. Mike & Nicole also had a conversation with the Village Manager and raised a question about whether the Village was in a position to accept donations (perhaps
Westchester Parks Foundation… which takes 10% of any fund raising… so this may be an avenue to explore).

HoHSkate is taking a pause to think about how to best set up fundraising (so donations are tax deductible).

Aaron G reminded us of an email he shared with the Commission of a Ralph Wilson Foundation that might be a source of grant funding for the design piece… He’ll send that email link around again.

- **Hillside Woods - update**
  Aaron P reported that not a lot of work is going on at the moment (because of winter). He is working with the fencing company. The biggest challenge with the fencing has been the topographies. He noted that the recent incident where a tree fell and damaged part of the fencing was unfortunate, but that tree was well over 20’ away from the fence (too far away from any standard clearing they did when the fence was installed to have prevented the damage). Aaron P suggests we’ll need to put maintenance money into our operating budgets so that we can maintain the fence going forward.

4. **New Business**

- **Upcoming Programs**
  A current listing of Recreation programming can be found on the department’s section of the Village website. Found here: https://www.hastingsgov.org/parks-and-recreation-department
  
  Currently JHCC is closed to all but essential business. We are hoping that we will be able to open the building to the public soon. We are readying to distribute info on our upcoming Hillside After School program. Anne Russack (Senior Advocate) is leading an effort to hand out treats to seniors for Valentine’s. The seniors have not been able to meet since the Village closed public buildings to all but essential efforts during the omicron surge.

  The Recreation department is busy putting together our spring programming.

- **Superintendent Report**

  Chemka Pool - the Village is in contract with the aquatics engineer. This engineer firm will be overseeing the work in the filter room. We are hopeful that we can open as scheduled (Memorial Weekend). This is an aggressive timeline. We have already
reached out to the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDoH) as the permitting agency. The Board of Trustees recently approved the $75k for the cost of the engineer, permitting fees, etc. The aquatic engineer will prepare the request for proposals (RFPs) so that we can go out to bid for the actual repairs (purchasing the equipment, installing, etc).

**Hillside After School Program** - info coming out soon.

**Pickleball** - Betinna Speyer shared information regarding pickleball (an email from Paul Feiner). Regarding options to play in Greenburgh (note Hastings is one of 6 villages that makes up the Town of Greenburgh), there was a discussion of how parts of Hastings are in the Town of Greenburgh, and other parts of Hastings are in the unincorporated Town of Greenburgh. Where in Hastings you reside would dictate what Town of Greenburgh recreation facilities you have access to, or not. The Town of Greenburgh is proposing additional courts to be created at Rumbrook Park (and that project would be funded with federal dollars, so anyone residing in Greenburgh will be able to use the new facility). The Anthony F Veteran Park courts would strictly be for use by Greenburgh residents.

Mike J asked if there is a way to identify what addresses would have access to what? That might be a nice thing to publicize. Perhaps we follow up with Paul Feiner. Aaron P will look into that.

**Zinsser Park garage roof** - During the snow/wind/ice storm last month (about MLK Jr weekend) the Zinsser Park garage roof sustained damage. Aaron is discussing this with the Village Manager to see if insurance might cover the cost of the repair. (If not, note this will be a non budgeted expense item that the department will incur).

**SavATree presentation** to the BoTs on Jan 18, 2022. The BoT received the final draft of the proposal. One of the recommendations the specialist made was to have an arborist in house. Aaron agrees that arborist expertise would be very helpful. He doesn't know if it will be a position that could get approved. Joanne asked if any discussions that this position of an arborist might be shared with other Villages (a joint resource). Aaron P said this has been considered, but it is tough to specify the scope of work this person would give to each Village (ie… what percentage of the person’s total time would be devoted to the types of tasks that each participating Village would need, etc). Amy asked if Irvington has such a person on staff. Aaron P noted that we are currently looking at a prism grant that would allow us to hire a contractor where we could define the scope of work.
-Pool Director Position -
Aaron P sent the Commission a job description for the open position. This is the ideal time to be recruiting for this position. Aaron P asked if a Commissioner would like to volunteer to be on the interview committee. Angela Reeve has volunteered.

-Day Camp - update
Aaron is happy to report that we have heard from the WCDoH early this year, and all indications are that we can have day camp and we'll be returning back to similar to 2019 (current health conditions favorable). Please remember, we haven’t had our traditional day camp since 2019. (COVID, and also the construction at the elementary school construction, etc prohibited the department from offering day camp in 2020 and 2021).

The Rec Department has been in touch with the schools and we will have access to the schools and their facilities this summer. We’re working on the preliminary Day Camp budget. Our expenses will be going up to run the camp. We do need to offset some of the increasing expenses.

The Recreation department is seeking the Commission’s support of a $75 per week increase for the cost of Day Camp in summer 2022. With the increasing costs of contracted vendors, supplies, and staff, the department feels that this increase is necessary.

Aaron shared a summary of Day Camp fees (noting that the traditional day camp was not offered in 2020 & 2021)

SUMMARY OF DAY CAMP FEES:

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<th>Year</th>
<th>EB Full</th>
<th>EB Wkly</th>
<th>Reg Full</th>
<th>Reg Wkly</th>
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EB= early bird. NR = Non-Resident

Day Camp projected revenue (with a $75 increase over 2019) = $175,500 (this based on a projection of 260 day campers)
The Recreation department is seeking the Commission’s support of a $50/week increase for the cost of Early Learning Camp in summer 2022.

**SUMMARY OF EARLY LEARNING CAMP FEES:**

<table>
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<th>EB Wkly</th>
<th>Reg Full</th>
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</table>

EB = Early Bird. NR = Non-Resident

Early Learning Camp projected revenue with $50 increase over 2019: $27,500 (this based on a projection of 50 Early Learning campers)

Some Commissioners expressed a concern that perhaps $75/week for Day Camp would not be enough. Commissioners asked Aaron P to “crunch the numbers” and if he felt like it should be more, the Commission would be notified with the amount needed to balance the projected revenue with the projected expenses.

The Recreation department does grant scholarships for camp (and other rec programs). The Youth Council did assist the Recreation Dept last year to help fund some local kids with financial need. Joanne asked if we have a record of how much we give out in scholarships (altogether)? Aaron P will look into this, but reminded the Commission that we have not offered a summer day camp since 2019. He noted that the Recreation department does work closely with Youth Advocate to help identify those families who may benefit from scholarship assistance.

Joanne asked if we need to set aside a line item in our annual program budget specifically for scholarship? If so, it would be good to have an overall idea of what the need has been. Anthony Costantini indicated financial aid has been between $20k - $30k for recreation programs (not including the pool).
Priorities – budget 2022/2023
Where are we in the Village budget process? Currently, Village Department Managers are in the process of submitting their respective department’s operating budgets to the Village Manager.
The Recreation department is hopeful that we will be able to resume some normalcy with programs this year (i.e., the Terry Ryan Run, and some traditional recreation programs)

Budget 2022 - Highlights (Increases/Decreases)

- Non-Union Staff - increase request.
- Membership line decreases dropped agency memberships for individual membership.
- Parks seasonal employees - line adjusted for minimum wage
- Parks capital outlay - increase to request field maintainer out of operating budget.
- Parks small tool - increase for battery operated leaf blower and weed wacker with batteries and charger
- Parks agriculture - increase for trail maintenance
- Comm Rec other services - increase for porta potties for farmer’s market, parks, and special events
- Comm Center bldg Maintenance - increase anticipating a 5% increase in services
- Comm Other services - increase for window cleaning and gutter cleaning
- Day Camp other services - increase for school use, security, etc

{The Commission discussed landscaping equipment of our Parks crew. Are we replacing broken equipment? Or are we replacing just to convert to electric?. Amy and Aaron G felt strongly that as a Parks department we need to lead with this initiative of moving to electric.}

Dog park - a recap of possible sites we have discussed -
  Hillside Park - behind the tennis courts
  Farragut Ave (behind Uniontown Park)
  Judson Ave - border of Hastings/Dobbs (is it time to revisit this discussion?)
  Area behind Draper Park, and Draper Park

One question that came up regarding Hillside Park (the area behind the tennis courts) is whether this area is a wetlands area? Anthony shared that the Village Engineer is looking at the entire area surrounding the courts, parking lot, trail etc and says there will be a series of storm water drains installed (north fence line of tennis court, engineer recommended putting in another storm basin). Anthony said that indeed that area has been challenging (noting Scheckler’s brook used to run through there). Mike suggests that it would be great for us, if this Commission agrees, to lean toward this as a location to consider. Joanne asked to “table” the dog park discussion to a future agenda.

- MacEachron Park shoreline - update
Fyi… the marine engineer has come up with some temporary erosion measures for this
location (area by the benches has been greatly affected by erosion). The consultant
spoke with NY State DEC, and got approval for temporary emergency measures.
Ordered coir logs (environmentally friendly, made of coconut)... the DPW and parks staff
are going to clean up the area, line up the coir logs and back fill the area. Even though
these are temporary measures, this might be in place for a couple years. Interviews and
surveys are being done at this point.

-Uniontown Basketball Court - drainage system
Doug Hahn, Village engineer, came out to evaluate the court. He proposed putting in a
dry well (what is there now is just a basin). He recommended we put in some conduit
and piping so we can mitigate the water issue. Aaron P will speak with the Village
Manager and DPW to see if we can take care of the drainage issue this fiscal year.
Provided that Aaron gets approval, he still wants to get the basketball court restored and
pickleball lines drawn. Gene Calamari cautioned that come April that park will be
loaded with kids. Aaron says it depends if he has the ability to do the work now, but he
expressed concern that this not something that has been budgeted for, so the proposed
drainage improvements may have to wait until fall.

Public Comment - Melissa Marsh, Hastings Swarm (swim team) parent booster
She asked if the $75k recently approved by the Board of Trustees for the Chemka pool is for
just engineering fees. Aaron P confirmed. She expressed that this is a big concern for her.
She asked to see a legitimate timeline if the pool will be able to be opened in May. If we are just
hiring a consultant now, that may not be realistic. Is there a “plan B” for the staffing of the Pool
Director? Is there a “plan B” if the Chemka pool is not able to open in May?

5. Adjournment

Next P&R Commission Meeting: March 10 (Thursday) 8:00pm via Zoom

Minutes approved/adopted March 10, 2022.