

**Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
James Harmon Community Center - 44 Main Street
Thursday, October 10, 2019 8 PM**

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Anjali Chen, John Dailey, David Downs, Mike Jacobs, Angela Reeve. A quorum is in order.
Aaron Podhurst (Superintendent)

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment -

David & Anne Runyan, Farragut Avenue, Hastings. Here to express concerns over any proposed skate park located at the Burke Estate, reasons being: too close to residential homes; uses valuable space at Burke; environmental concerns of paved surface; noise pollution; quality of life of nearby residents. While they are not opposed to the idea of a skate park in the Village, they are opposed to a skate park across the street from their home.

Miichael Mackay, Farragut Avenue, Hastings. Opposed to the idea of a skate park at the Burke Estate, and expressed concern over teens hanging out and drinking after dark.

Franya Barnett, Farragut Avenue, Hastings. Here to learn more about the idea of a skate park at the Burke Estate. She is concerned about location (safety crossing Farragut Ave), how will trees be affected, and generally here to gain more info.

Karen McSpedon, Fairmont Avenue, Hastings. Would like to propose that the Chemka Pool be kept open two full weeks into September, and suggested that others interested in the same would be willing to pay an extra fee if the Chemka Pool season could be extended.

3. Old Business

- **September meeting minutes -**

Joanne asked Angela to include a copy of the July 18 correspondence from Ginsburg to Mayor Armacost subject: Saw Mill Lofts - Village Open Space as indication that Ginsburg is opposed to the idea of a dog run on the Village owned 9A parcel adjacent the Lofts. With this addition, the Commission has approved the September 12, 2019 meeting minutes.

- **Skate Park - update**

Mike Jacobs opened the discussion by pointing out that the proposed idea of a skate park has been discussed at public meetings for near eighteen months now. A recap of possible sites that have been explored include Reynolds Field, the Burke Estate adjacent staff parking lot, and the Burke Estate south of the driveway that leads to the soccer field (all of which are Hastings UFSD owned sites), as well as various Village owned sites. Over the past 15 months or so, the Parks & Rec Commission has been hearing from a group of Hastings adult and youth residents (now organized as HOHSkate) looking to create a skate park in the Village. Currently, the Parks & Recreation department is in the process of compiling next year's budget submissions and that

has involved the discussion and review of a variety of 10 or so projects, among those projects include a proposed skate park.

HOHskate (several youth members) - asked to speak to address some concerns that residents may have about a proposed skate park:

Nature - they would like to incorporate nature, green space and nature into the design (the group shared mock ups of what incorporating trees and green space might look like)

Crosswalk / pedestrian safety - those going to the Burke would use the same/existing process that exists for anyone wanting to access the playing fields (ie crosswalks located between the schools and the Burke).

Noise - we invite you to visit the skate park in Nyack, where you will see that the noise generated from wheels on poured concrete is much quieter than wheels on blacktop (the group shared some noise sampling stats).

Hours - would be "dawn to dusk"... consistent with all other Village parks and the Burke

No lighting of the proposed skate park

Anti-social behavior - as a group of local teenagers, please remember that nobody likes to be stereo-typed. We are a group of determined and passionate teen residents looking for a safe place to recreate. Skate boarding diversifies our local youth sport offerings (skate boarding is an Olympic sport in 2020).

Commission members discussed that the proposed Burke location is currently a highly active site with student athletes. David noted that many of the expressed concerns could perhaps be addressed in the design process. Mike asked Nicole Maziolek (HOHskate) if she could look into design strategies, plantings, etc to get creative in addressing some of the concerns expressed.

HOHskate also shared that Steven Rodriguez (an advisor for the Tony Hawk Foundation) has agreed to help support the group in an advisory role. HOHskate has collected \$15k in pledges in the last two weeks. The group has updated their two social media sites (HOHskate.weebly.com) The teen residents of the group are continuing with their activism. To date they have 400 signatures in support of a local skate park.

Katy Reidy (public comment) - she runs the Friday Free Skate program here in town and is here to speak to the value that the sport brings to youth... benefits that transcend to other areas of their lives.

Joanne recognizes that it's difficult when all are not in total agreement. The Commission is still in the info gathering stage and Joanne commended the teen residents of HOHskate for consistently "doing their homework," and for always being respectful when they periodically come in to report on their findings. Joanne stressed the importance of the community working together.

To move things forward, Mike Jacobs asked Nicole Miziolek (HOHskate) is she could look into design considerations that would involve plantings and get create to problem solve some of the concerns that have been expressed.

- **Hillside Woods** - update

David Downs reported that it has become evident that the Village did not appropriate any funds

for the start of the 5-year project of Hillside Woods in the 2020 budget.

There was a meeting with the Village, the Vine Squad, the Rec Department, etc and it was determined that the first year project tasks can be addressed with the Village Parks crew, the Vine Squad, and the Westchester County arborist (who will be training the Village Parks staff). The project will begin in early November.

Regarding the \$350K for the 5-year Hillside Woods project -> Westchester County will apply for grant monies on the Village's behalf. Any grant funds received would be applied to year-3 tasks (ie. fence enclosure).

Aaron reported that the Rec/Parks department is setting up a training date with the County's arborist to learn how to tackle the invasive vines.

- Dog Park - update (not discussed at this month's meeting)

4. New Business

- Upcoming / New Programs -

(reference www.hastingsrecreation.org for program/registration info)

For PreSchoolers -

Halloween Cupcakes - ages 3-5yrs - Oct 24 @ JHCC

For School Aged Children -

Recreation Basketball - grades K - 8th, Nov 11 - mid March, 2020, Hastings' school gyms

Soccer - grades K - 6th - Nov 2 - 23rd @ Hillside School

For Community -

Village-Wide Tag Sale, Sat Oct 12th, Hastings.

Halloween Spooktacular

Oct 17 (Thurs) - pumpkin carving, 6pm @ JHCC

Oct 18 - Friday Night Dead @ Chemka Ghoul, 6pm - 9pm

Oct 19 - (Sat) - Window Painting (10am), Dog Parade (3:30pm) - downtown

Oct 20 - (Sun) - Ragamuffin Parade and Fall Fun Events (1:30pm - 4pm) - Warburton Ave

Oct 31 - (Thurs) - Trunk or Treat (4:30pm - 6pm) - Chemka Pool parking lot

18th Annual Terry Ryan Memorial Run, Nov 10 (Sun) - 1:30pm (Fun Run @ 12:30pm)

For Seniors -

Reference October 2019 Senior Calendar on www.hastingsrecreation.org for shopping/trips

Senior exercise program (daily 11am offerings @ JHCC)

Current Events & Open Discussions - Tuesdays @ JHCC

Senior Halloween Party - Oct 31 (Thurs) 12N - 2:30pm @ JHCC

- Parks & Playgrounds (list) - Commission member sign-up

Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo opened this discussion by asking Commission members to "adopt" each of the Village's parks and to commit to visiting and walking these sites on a regular basis so that we as a Commission stay in-tuned to the conditions of our parks.

<Attached chart summarizing Village Parks & Commission members assigned follows>

Superintendent’s Report -

- Aaron asked Lisa O’Reilly (Camp Director) and Anthony Costantini (Co-Director Chemka Pool) to present on the Village’s 2019 Camp and Chemka Pool seasons respectively.

Summer Camp - (reference Lisa’s handout outlining snapshot of enrollment and revenue for 2018 vs 2019 seasons). Overall enrollment numbers were up from 2018 (although we did have a drop in the Early Learning program’s enrollment). Overall, Camp revenue grossed \$334k (an increase of \$106k from 2018) and netted \$10k. Angela recalled Camp’s overall net revenue from 2018 to be about \$30k and asked Lisa if she felt that this year (with only a \$10k net profit) the Rec Dept was comfortably able to cover Camp expenses. Lisa shared that it was harder this year to cover costs, considering that the cost of vendors (who provide enrichment programs to the overall camp experience) as well as the minimum wage keep increasing. Lisa also pointed out that the registration fees have remained the same for years amid the rising costs of offering the program (reference handout), and suggests we may need to consider raising the registration fee in the future. Lisa pointed out that at current registration fees, families pay about \$4/hour per child to have the Hastings Camp experience.

A snapshot of current Village Recreation Summer Camp fees:

Early Learning Camp:	Early Bird	Regular Reg	
- Full Season	\$475 for 6 wks	\$525 for 6 wks	
- Weekly	\$100	\$125	
Hillside Camp:	Early Bird	Regular	Non-Resident
- Full Season	\$575	\$625	\$725
- Weekly	\$150	\$125	\$200

Chemka Pool - (reference Anthony’s handout “Chemka Pool 2019 Financial Report, Recap and Recommendations”)

Season Recap - overall a successful summer. Programs were well attended (with slight enrollment drop in the Little Splashers program), and staff maintained a strong rapport with patrons. Staffing at the end of the season is always a challenge.

Memberships -> 4% increase in memberships: 2018 = 2,689 and 2019 = 2,793

Financial Report:

FY —> Budget Item	2018 (438,100)	2019 (480,000)	% Difference
Revenue	472,035	463,462	-2%
Expenses	461,566	456,171	-4.64%
Balance	10,469	7,291	-30%

Notes: pool budget intersects two different fiscal years, so the 2018 season final numbers may change after this coming fiscal year’s audit and the 2019 numbers will not be finalized until the audit of the 2020 fiscal year. Above 2019 numbers reflect \$12k being set aside for 2020 season opening.

Co-Director Recommendations:

- continue to offer 65 non-resident permits (currently 60 family / 5 individuals... perhaps consider 55 family / 10 individual)
- actively seek outside camp rentals
- re-evaluate current rental agreements
- optimize staffing to reduce expenses

- restructure Sunday morning lesson program
- Eliminate adult swim class (no enrollment) and replace with youth stroke clinic
- Eliminate Thursday night theme nights, replace with season start & season end parties
- Evaluate cost/benefit of Swim Team

Swim Team cost/benefits were discussed. Since 2015, the Swim Team has resulted in approx \$8k per season loss. Enrollment numbers have declined. In 2019, the registration fee was raised from \$70 to \$85 per swimmer (resulting in \$3,040 gross swim team revenue), however this still was not enough to cover the cost of the program (\$10,934 in 2019).

Anthony presented some recommendations for the Commission to discuss. David asked if the cost of the team could be evenly divided among the members enrolled (approx \$250 per member). Anthony felt that a jump in cost would further reduce enrollment numbers. Angela stressed that our Rec Department swim team is for many a first introduction to the competitive sport of swimming, and a special opportunity for our youth (youngsters who many not have the time or means to join a Club team at the cost of approx \$3k/swimmer). Angela feels we should avoid cancelling the program if at all possible and asked that before any decision is made that we at a minimum call together all interested stake holders to brainstorm ways to keep the program and address the costs. Commission members asked if we could eliminate bussing (saving approximately \$1500) and asked if establishing a Parent Booster Club might be possible. After some discussion, Commission members would like to see if we can ramp up recruitment efforts to increase 2020 enrollment numbers, agreed that some increase in program fee was in order (perhaps \$150 per member) and by all means we need to consider ways to decrease the program expense so that the program does not continue to operate at an \$8k loss per season.

Last two items in Aaron's Superintendent Report (reference Aaron's handout to Commission)

Pickleball - email request from a resident for a pickleball court in the Village was discussed with the Commission. In general, the Commission did not want to alter the brand new Hillside tennis courts in any way, noting increase in instructional programming and increased usage since the refurbished courts reopened.

"Another Park" - reference Susan Maggiato's email to Aaron pointing out that the Village owns a parcel of land on the southwest corner of Farragut Ave and Nepera Place, and she wanted to make sure that we as a Commission remember to include this parcel on our list of parks, playgrounds and facilities. Angela Reeve confirmed that this parcel is listed on tonight's summary, and pointed out that it was included in the Commission's Long-Range Plan for Strategic Management of Parks and Recreation Assets (appears as former Getty Station - pocket park)

5. Adjournment

Meeting Minutes prepared by A. Reeve
 Adopted on November 14, 2019

ATTACHMENT -

**Village of Hastings on Hudson
Parks, Playgrounds, Recreation Facilities (2019-2020)**

Park / Facility	Commission Member	Notes (date)
9A Parcel	Downs	
Broadway Triangle (pocket)	Reeve	Not usable
Cliff Street (pocket)	n/a	Not usable
Dan Rile Memorial Park	Reeve	
Draper Park	Jacobs	
Fulton Park (adjacent Library)	Baecher-DiSalvo	
Graham Park	n/a	undeveloped
Hillside Tennis Courts	Downs	
Hillside Park:		
- Chemka Pool / House	Reeve	
- Sugar Pond, shed, bridge	Reeve	
- Trails	Reeve	
James Harmon Community Center	Rec Staff	
Lefurgy Park	n/a	undeveloped
Kinnally Cove & boardwalk	Baeher-DiSalvo	
MacEachron Park	Baecher-DiSalvo	
MacEachron Playground	Baecher-DiSalvo	
Nepera Place & Farragut Ave (Former Getty Station - pocket)	Reeve	undeveloped
Pulver's Woods (trail)	Reeve	
Quarry Park	Chen	
Quarry Trail	Chen	
Reynold's - entrance (pocket)	Downs	

Reynold's - playground	Downs	
Riverview Park	Dailey	
Rowley's Bridge Trail	Chen	
Senior Citizen Vest Pocket Park	Reeve	
Uniontown Field	Calamari	
Uniontown Playground	Calamari	
Veteran's Memorial park	n/a	undeveloped
Villard Park (Villard & Broadway)	Chen	
Wagner Park	Baecher-DiSalvo	
Zinsser - playing fields	Dailey	
Zinsser - community gardens	Dailey	
Zinsser - park & playground	Dailey	
Waterfront North & South	n/a	Currently no public access