

**Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting  
James Harmon Community Center - 44 Main Street  
Thursday, September 12, 2019 8 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

In Attendance: Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo (Chair), Gene Calamari, John Dailey, David Downs, Angela Reeve.

Aaron Podhurst (Superintendent-. A quorum is in order.

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment - none

3. Old Business

- **Dog Park - update**

Recap of a few potential locations that have been discussed by the P&R Commission -- Graham Park parcel - the "usable" area might lend itself to a "dog run" (long and narrow, like the one in Yonkers off of Warburton Ave). However the site is not easily accessible and would require a lot of prep work.

Hillside Woods @ Judson Ave - in our efforts to restore the woods, having a dog park at that location would be counter-productive (and that location would be cost prohibitive). 9A parcel - David attempted to reach out to Ginsburg and the initial sense was that they did not support the idea of using the Village's 9A parcel of land for such a park. {reference July 18, 2019 letter from M. Ginsburg to Mayor Armacost, reference Saw Mill Lofts -- Village Open Space. Said letter supplied to Joanne Baecher-DiSalvo, Chair P&R Commission, and attached as part of September P&R Commission meeting minutes}

- **End of Summer Recap - Camp and Pool**

Hillside Camp -- enrollment overall was up in 2019. Aaron presented a revenue report for the summer programs; David asked if we could add a column to the report that would compare last year's numbers to the current year. Angela asked if we could check in with Lisa to get a sense from her if she felt that she comfortably covered the camp expenses (reminding the Commission that in 2018 the Camp netted \$30k and the Commission had declined a request from Lisa/Camp Director to increase registration fees). Aaron pointed out that the minimum wage (currently at \$12/hr in Westchester) will continue to rise until we reach \$15/hr in 2022 and pointed out that vendor costs continue to rise. Angela pointed out that at the time of the rate increase request, the Commission stressed that we did not need to bring in a big profit, but rather comfortably cover costs of running the summer camps. Aaron will check on the net revenue numbers and provide for the October meeting.

Chemka Pool - Anthony Costantini (Pool Co-Director) reported that 2019 profits were somewhat smaller than last year, citing a decrease in enrollment for the Little Splashers

programs. The total allotment of non-resident pool permits were sold (40 family and 10 individual) as well as 10 additional permits made available to help ease the need of neighboring Dobbs Ferry when they learned that their pool would not be able to open in 2019. All the program numbers are not in yet since the pool is still open in September... Anthony will have final numbers available for the October Commission meeting. Joanne mentioned that she received a few complaints from pool members sharing that early morning swim has become crowded.

#### Spray Pool update -

The Village Manager, Mary Beth, indicated that the repairs for the Spray Pool were rebid and Aaron noted that bids are due back by September 13th. Aaron will report on this at the October meeting. Aaron noted that Norberto (the original builder) was able to give some insight into the project.

#### Quarry Park update -

This was a topic at a recent Board of Trustee's meeting. The cite has been graded and engineers are looking closely at the issue of drainage (note there can be no standing water/catch basins on cite per the DEC approved plans). The Village Manager is directly involved and receives regular updates from the contractors on the project.

#### Quarry Park Trail update -

The damage to Quarry Park Trail will be part of the conversation with the engineers and contractors of the Quarry Park project, however the Village is not ready/willing to invest money into the trail at this time.

#### Sugar Pond update -

There has been no evidence of blue/green algae found at Sugar Pond via field tests and samples taken at that location. However, out of an abundance of caution, there have been signs posted that prohibit swimming (humans and animals).

#### Hillside Woods update -

Aaron reported that the Parks Foreman has been working with the Vine Squad for the removal of invasive vines, but stressed that the Department needs more help with this enormous task. David reminded us that Land Beyond the Sea recommended in their urban forestry management plan that the Village would benefit from having an arborist with the skills and leadership ability to help us oversee the removal of the invasive vines. Aaron mentioned that the part time parks staff has been recently staffed with the Village DPW to help in that department, which leaves our Parks Foreman short of help.

#### Skate Park update -

Aaron has briefed the new Village Manager on the discussions pertaining to local interest in a skate park. Mike Jacobs, Trustee Lopez and Aaron have all spoken with the Maureen Caraballo, Treasurer of Hastings UFSD and the school district is amenable to the Village Parks & Rec department using school property at the Burke estate for the creation of a skate park. Aaron learned from the Village's insurance carrier that we can cover such a use under an IMA (inter municipal agreement). Aaron and Ms. Caraballo will work on terms of an agreement. The two major concerns the school district has is the design and how such design will affect the trees on the site. Aaron will need to find

out from the local interest group to see how they are coming along with the design / cost estimates. Aaron spoke with Fiona Matthew, who writes grants for the Village, to see if she may be a resource.

#### 4. New Business

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

(reference [www.hastingsrecreation.org](http://www.hastingsrecreation.org) for program/registration info)

##### For PreSchoolers -

Creative Kids - 18 mos - 4 yrs, Mondays or Thursdays, Sep 16 - Dec 9 @ the JHCC  
Little Kickers Soccer - 3yrs - 5yrs, Thursdays or Sundays, Sep 19 - Oct 27 @ Draper Park  
Sports Hoppers and Parent & Me - 2yrs - 5yrs, Fridays Sep 20 - Oct 24 @ Draper Park  
Fall Into Fun & Cupcakes - 3yrs - 5 yrs, Thurs Sep 26 @ JHCC  
Pee Wee Tennis - 4 & 5yrs, Sep 18 - Oct 23 @ Hillside Tennis Courts

##### For School Aged Children -

Afterschool Program - grades K - 4th, Sep 23 - Nov 15 @ Hillside School  
Chess - grades 5th - 8th, Wednesdays, Sep 25 - Nov 20 @ JHCC  
Dinner & Movie Night (during Back to School Night) - Sep 5 @ JHCC  
Outdoor Track & Field - grades K - 6th, Sundays Sep 22 - Oct 20, @ Reynold's School Track  
Recreation Basketball - grades K - 8th, Nov 11 - mid March, 2020, Hastings' school gyms  
Fall Harvest Gardeners - grades 1-4th, Sep 21-Oct 26 @ Zinsser Community Gardens.  
Fencing - grades 2nd - 6th, Tuesdays Sep 17 - Nov 19 @ JHCC.  
Flag Football - grades 3rd - 6th, Thursdays, Sep 19-Oct 24, location TBD.  
Soccer - grades K - 6th - Nov 2 - 23rd @ Hillside School  
Tennis - 6yrs - 12yrs - Sep 18 - Oct 23 @ Hillside Tennis Courts  
Ultimate Frisbee - grades 5th - 8th, Wednesdays Oct 2 - 23rd @ Draper Park

##### For Adults -

Tennis - Saturdays, Sep 14 - Oct 19 @ Hillside Tennis Courts.

##### For Community -

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

##### For Seniors -

Reference September 2019 Senior Calendar on [www.hastingsrecreation.org](http://www.hastingsrecreation.org) for shopping/trips  
Senior exercise program (daily 11am offerings @ JHCC) begins Sep 9th  
Welcome Back Breakfast for Seniors - Sep 20 @ JHCC  
Trip to Essex Steam Train & Riverboat Cruise, Oct 1st, Essex, CT.  
Lunch & Learn Series - Alzheimer's workshop, Sep 24 @ JHCC.  
Current Events & Open Discussions - Tuesdays @ JHCC.  
Livable Communities Village Fair - Sep 18 @ Mt Pleasant Community Center

##### **- Playground Improvement and Repairs**

Aaron reported that "Playground Medic" (certified playground safety inspection vendor) came and did a full evaluation / risk assessment of the Village playgrounds at MacEachron Waterfront Park and Zinsser Park so we can attend to anything those sites need. Note, the Reynolds playground is inspected by the School district's vendor, and Uniontown Park playground is brand new, so those sites were not included as part of Playground Medic's evaluation.

Joanne asked if Aaron would follow up on some tubing that seems to be coming out under the fence at Reynolds, and also felt we could use some more wood chips under the Reynolds

climber.

**Other -**

- List of parks / trails / locations for Commission members to "adopt" - Joanne asked Angela to compile a list of Village parks and playgrounds for the October Commission meeting for the purpose of divvying up those locations among the Commission members. The idea being that each Commission member will commit to visiting his/her assigned location(s) throughout the year and report back on the condition of the park/location.

- Bocci - Joanne asked Aaron for an update on the approved construction of a bocci court at Riverview Park. As the Parks Foreman (and assistants) have been extremely busy with the seasonal demands of the pool and parks this summer, the construction of the bocci court did not make the spring/summer schedule. Aaron indicated that construction of a bocci court is still on the department's To Do list.

-Monthly Parks & Recreation Commission meetings will generally fall on the 2nd Thursday of each month @ 8pm at the James Harmon Community Center.

The Fall Meetings are scheduled on:

October 10th  
November 14th  
December 12th

5. Executive Session

6. Adjournment

Meeting Minutes prepared by A. Reeve

Adopted on October 10, 2019

Attachment: July 18, 2019 letter from M. Ginsburg to Mayor Armacost



Always with integrity

July 18, 2019

Mayor Nicola Armacost  
Hastings-on-Hudson  
7 Maple Avenue  
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

**Re: Saw Mill Lofts - Village Open Space**

Dear Mayor Armacost:

I am writing with reference to the village open space adjoining our Saw Mill Lofts community. I understand that the village has been considering installing a dog run in the village open space (or dog runs - since usually small dogs are not usually mixed with larger dogs in this type of facility). Incidentally, your suggesting of installing an 8' chain-link fence around the property, is not a dog run, it is a dog park.

We have voiced our opposition to that use of the property. We had previously submitted conceptual plans for tennis courts, a children's playground and an exercise walk around which we feel would be more appropriate use.

We intend to ask our 66 tenant families what they think would be an appropriate use of this open space. Right now, it is a "great lawn area" which is not a bad feature to have in a parklet adjoining the well-used biking and hiking trail.

Since our residents are also Hastings residents and Hastings is a very Democratic village - I think we should find out what they would prefer for their neighborhood.

My feeling is that since this project has a long history, initially being presented to the Hastings Planning Board maybe 25 years ago as a 168-unit condominium and through various iterations and many more meetings that I can count, before it was finally developed in its present form. Therefore, there should not be any rush to do something in this open space that might be very inappropriate. Who knows, the residential development may become a condominium in the future.

When we get the results of our tenant survey, we will advise you if they would approve the idea of a dog run as suggested - and if not, what other uses would they prefer.

Until then, I am respectfully asking that you do not pursue any dog runs here. I think there will be a more appropriate use that will develop for this location once we hear from the people who live here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Martin Ginsburg".

Martin Ginsburg

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