

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting - January 3, 2024, 7:00 PM

Village Courtroom, 169 Mount Pleasant Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Attendees: Tim O'Connor, Randi Robinowitz, Eric Williams, Brittany Ross, Karrie Sergio, Jarrett Winchester, Dan Margoshes, and Carlo Reca (remote)

Present: Jason Pinto, Jeff Ahne, Manny Rawlings

Absent: Kristen Barnard

Opening:

Dan called the meeting to order. There was a brief discussion about how our agendas are formed and who drives the topics so we can be most productive. Minor corrections to the minutes were noted, Randi made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Brittany seconded, all in favor. Two additional items were added to the agenda, Sportime and the VOM Greenway.

Sportime Discussion:

Clarification to previous minutes that note Sportime offsets our taxes by 12% which is not accurate, Sportime pays us 12% of their revenue which offsets about 1% of taxes. Jason said they will be discussing Sportime's contract renewal at the upcoming BOT meeting and how to proceed. It was noted that we were waiting for a cost-benefit analysis from the Village manager to see what we could do to utilize the space to our benefit if we were not to renew Sportime's contract but we have not received anything to date. It was also noted that there was an Ad-Hoc Committee but nothing came of that. It was stated that having a commercial operator can maximize the use of the facility but we need the data so we can negotiate our wants and needs, such as more community programs, more scholarships, more clinics, more summer programs, and being able to utilize the outside court. This should not just be a financial agreement but also a benefit for our residents. It may be too late for this year but a few members of the commission are going to put together a list of wants and needs for the community and email our recommendations to the Board.

VOM Greenway:

The Committee for the Environment (CFTE) is proposing a restoration of the land along Mamaroneck's rivers. Per Manny, it has been presented to him at a Board meeting and a Flood Mitigation Advisory meeting. It is a large cost but they are trying to find grant funding. The goal is not to do it all at once but to implement it over time. It would be a string of connected pocket parks along our waterways to not only provide ecological benefits but also help mitigate flooding.

Parks & Recreation Master Plan:

Jason presented the commission with a compilation of goals, wishlist items, and budgeting and capital items for all our Village parks for planning out a schedule to get us on a cycle so we are not hit all at once with costly repairs/replacement. Recently the Board approved the funding for Florence Park, the Harbor Island sprayground, and bandstand. It was stated broad propositions to be considered should be park

accessibility and the sea level rising is a big concern. The goal with all of this is to go to the Board with items for a master plan.

Parks and Recreation Update:

No news on the Orienta playground. Eric informed us that Orienta Point Association (OPA) had not met in six months but is expected to have new leadership soon, so hopefully will pick back up again.

Jeff said they are currently working on Florence Park, looking to start renovations in Feb/Mar. The contractors, through Sourcewell, Playsafe for the playground and rubber surface, and DeRosa for the site work, are working on a schematic of where everything will be laid out, the park needs to be surveyed first. The new playground equipment is in, the tennis courts are staying where they are, they are going to do three new basketball courts, they are getting rid of the unused bocce courts and adding three pickleball courts, and the old sandpit is coming out and will house new infant-2-year-old play equipment. It was asked if there was any concern about the residents who live immediately around the park not being happy about any of the improvements, particularly regarding the addition of pickleball, being that it is very loud and the park is completely surrounded by people's homes. It was mentioned that pickleball is just in such high demand we should provide the service. It was suggested that perhaps Harbor Island is a better-suited location for pickleball courts.

Dan informed us the Harbor Island Conservancy finished their work at the pocket park on the corner of Orienta and Boston Post Rd with tree plantings, mason work, and a bench.

A question was asked about a part needed for Jefferson Park. Jeff stated the company that built Jefferson Park came back to measure everything but it might not be possible to add steps to the big slide because of the required fall zones. Brittany let us know that a lot of parents were upset that the big slide was not accessible to little kids because you can only get there by the "ninja warrior" part. Jason pointed out that the equipment was not designed for that age and there is the smaller playset for that younger age there as well.

Jeff said the company that is doing Florence Park, Playsafe who owns Vortex, will be doing the sprayground which they are planning on starting at the end of next season. With the timing of everything involved, the water engineers, the equipment arrival, checking the water pressure/PSI (pounds per square inch) coming into the Harbor etc., it is not possible to get it done for this summer.

Jason said the holiday event was one of the best ones they have had despite the weather causing them to cancel the second day. They had 175 letters to Santa and they responded to over 140 of them, not every letter had a return address but staff looked up and responded to what they could find. Their extra effort is very much appreciated. They took hundreds of Santa photos, Melissa Luiso, Mrs. New York of Prestige All-Star United States also came to take pictures with the kids as well, and they did the special needs program early on Sunday morning. Camp info will go out in February and they are working on the calendar for spring/summer 2024. They got a rec leader in September and she is doing really well. They are starting a partnership with STEM Alliance, they are doing two afterschool programs with them starting

in January. Keeps is there every day as well. Jason is working on a project that will come to us in the next meeting or two, and then go to the Board, to have AEDs (automated external defibrillators) accessible at Harbor Island Park. Some sports organizations are being mandated by their overseeing groups to have AEDs accessible. They are looking at the cost of putting them at multiple locations (at least six) at the Harbor, they need electricity, and they recommend a 300' radius for each device. In our area, we would be one of the first to have these life-saving devices.

A question was asked about possible bussing for camp because the traffic for camp drop-off is crazy. The consensus is that it would be a very expensive and difficult endeavor that would just not be feasible or cost-effective.

It was asked if the meeting with Field for Kids (FFK) was rescheduled. Manny said it is possibly happening tomorrow but if not, they are looking to have it sometime this month.

Closing:

Tim made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Karrie seconded, meeting adjourned. The next meeting is on February 7, 2024.