

## **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 7:00 pm, Village Hall Conference Room

**Attendees:** Tina Maresca, Karrie Sergio, Kristen Vetter, Brittany Ross, Carlo Recca, Tim O'Connor, Eric Williams, Kristen Barnard

**Present:** Jason Pinto, Jeff Ahne, Jeff LaRusso, Jerry Barbiero, Manny Rawlings

**Absent:** Randi Robinowitz

### **Opening:**

Tina made a motion to open the meeting, Kristen B. seconded, all in favor.

### **Agenda Items:**

Tina asked for a motion to hold items 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 from the agenda until the next meeting. Karrie made the motion, seconded by Tim, all in favor.

Tina made a motion to add item 12, Bark Park Halloween Party to the agenda, Karrie seconded, all in favor.

### **Approval of minutes:**

Tina asked for a motion to approve the September 2023 minutes, Kristen B. made the motion, Carlo seconded, all in favor.

### **Item 3, Florence Park: English Place & Park Avenue entrance discussion:**

Tina reported that the traffic commission approved the addition of a handicapped space and no parking in front of the guardrail at the English Pl & Park Ave entrance. The Village Engineer will look at it and begin the process to create it. It will also include a handicapped access ramp.

### **Item 4, handicapped Parking near Village Parks:**

Tina reported that the traffic commission loved the idea of adding the handicapped spot near Florence Park and would like the PRC to identify handicapped parking at all of the village parks. The handicapped spaces can not be designated for park use only.

### **Item 12, Bark Park Halloween Party event:**

A member of the Bark Park has asked to have a Halloween party at the Bark Park. Jason let us know that he does not have room in his budget or the staff to accommodate this but stated volunteers could organize it themselves as these

types of events in most other communities, including the one that recently took place in Larchmont, is run by volunteers. It was suggested that a dog Halloween parade could be possibly merged with the Spooktacular Halloween parade, the dogs could parade before the Ragamuffin parade, but the idea of intermingling dogs and children was not favored. The Bark Park is currently only open to Village residents who have purchased a fob but the organizer(s) of the Bark Park Halloween Party want and have advertised it as being a Village event open to all, and permission has been given by the Village for volunteers to do this. The major concern over allowing this event at the Bark Park would be having it be open to all; by allowing dogs that have not been vetted there would be no way to ensure that dog park rules are being complied with or that dogs are properly licensed and vaccinated. There was already a dog bite incident at the Bark Park to which we still don't have answers to. There is also a safety concern for the dogs being allowed to run around loose in costumes as opposed to parading on leash. Another concern is there was no permit issued to allow this event, only verbal permission granted by Jerry. The majority of the commission expressed that they believed this to be a liability for the Village and its residents, and were not in favor of this event as planned. Jerry stated he has taken care of everything and is allowing the event to go on as is, against the opinion of commission members.

**Item 1, Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update:**

A discussion was had in regards to a master plan that Village Staff has been working on, including equipment (introduce electric equipment - mower, etc), building facilities, playgrounds, and fields.

Florence Park discussion - several upgrades are on the capital plan including 3 pickleball courts, new playground, redo tennis and basketball courts, add basketball court, remove trees that are damaging walkways and surfaces, remove unneeded curbing, new fencing, upgraded lighting.

Tim asked if cameras will be installed once all upgrades are complete. Jerry explained that due to connectivity issues cameras that are in other areas of the Village will not work. He may need to rent the cameras like they have been using at the brooks to monitor the water levels.

Harbor Island Requested Items: Red & Blue Room improvements, pavilion upgrades including removal of showers and convert to storage, replacement of flooring throughout, replacement of ceiling tiles, and an electric UTV.

Formation of a committee to work on an indoor facility. To be created after the new year. Carlo and Tina are very interested in serving on the committee.

Sportime lease will be renegotiated beginning in January and likely be renewed. Village will try to take back the outdoor court and transform it into a basketball court. Income from Sportime was higher this year than in the past, approximately \$450,000.

Parks & recreation items will be discussed on October 23 at the work session at 5pm then will be at the BOT meeting on November 23.

Harbor Master: Jeff L. plans to add a self-serve kayak rental (automated). Similar to the city bike concept. Village will get a percentage back from the rental fees. Can be kayaks and paddleboards. Rentfun.com  
Phase 4 of dock rebuild - C dock, police dock and S dock (behind harbormaster office). Boat ramp - would like to reconfigure it, try to hinge it and move it over. Future plans to bring in a designer to redesign the marina.

Brittany asked about the sea wall. Jerry explained the Village engineer is working on the plans and that Dan Sarnoff has secured a \$650,000 grant for the project. Not sure when this will begin or be ready.

Jerry asked Commission Members to visit Village parks that are of interest to them to see what things they think can be changed and/or improved. Florence Park and the West basin section of Harbor Island is not necessary. All members should do this before the next meeting and email their ideas/comments to Jerry before the November 1 meeting.

Rockland Pocket Preserve is a new park that was just created and opened this week and needs to be added to our list of parks.

Ward Ave park will be eliminated as part of the Army Corp plan.

Bub Walker Park - Bocce court has been removed - Jerry would like to add a bocce court to a park somewhere.

PRC Mission Statement - currently only includes Harbor Island Park and should include everything park related. Please think of changes for the next meeting.

Long time maintenance - think of ideas of things that we think can improve the park system that need to be considered for each park.

Non-organized use of facilities - think of ideas/locations where residents can use for non-organized (non-permitted) use of facilities/parks.

Jerry explained he thinks our current process should be flipped. Our ideas should be discussed by the board before we are asked to discuss and research a subject. This is something that he would like us to think about.

Jerry reviewed with the commission the overall responses to the worksheets committee members had previously filled out. All of the items have been addressed in this working version of his master plan and an explanation was given on items the commission had concerns about.

If anyone has questions please send to Jerry individually, not emailing the group. Jerry told the group that by December he should have a preliminary blueprint of the indoor multisport facility and then would like to form a subcommittee for the facility.

**Closing:**

Jason mentioned he will send out the fee schedule so committee members can review before the next meeting as we need to discuss and vote on it for the November meeting.

The commission has decided to move the next meeting back to November 1st and Tina will email Sally and Robert to change the meeting back to November 1st on the village calendar.

Kristen V. made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Brittany seconded, all in favor.

**Next meeting is November 1, 2023.**