

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ("PRAB")
Minutes of July 11, 2017 Meeting**

In Attendance: Karl Hinrichs, Dan Zenkel, Norma Hill, Lois Mallin, Charlene Decker, Ed Lobermann, Liz Duffy, Barbara DiGiacinto, Matt Trainor, Lisa Larsen

Absent: Steve D'Angelo, Brendan Molloy, Frank Lattarulo

Minutes of the June 6, 2017 meeting were accepted and approved.

General Projects Update

1. Started planting flowers for the Beautification Committee.
2. Put a gravel base down on the low spots in Betsy Sluder Nature Preserve.
3. Lombardi Park retaining wall is complete.
4. Fountain Park discussions still need to be had between Matt Trainor, Jamie Norris, Barbara DiGiacinto and Joan Goldberg.
5. A next project is to update the safety surfaces in some of the playgrounds.
6. Parks Signage - Handout distributed - Karl would like feedback from the PRAB as to marketing our own parks and recreation and with keeping a consistent design throughout parks and Town. Dan feels we need to step up the graphics to a professional level, possibly use a graphic designer - Matt will contact Luis Perez.

Update on Pool Operations 2017: Reports distributed - bottom line is that the pool numbers have stayed reliable and consistent for the past three years.

Update on Camp Operations 2017: Reports distributed showing revenue comparison numbers. Different programming, including chess and golf, was brought in Chippewa this year and has proven to be very popular. Chippewa is up, Kick-a-Poo is down, and the teen one day trips did not run - very little to no enrollments per day.

Senior Citizen Programming: A FOCUS group meeting was held on 6/19/17 to discuss ideas and concerns for the future of the senior citizen program. This meeting was full of thoughtful input and concern for the future and Liz Duffy came away feeling very encouraged and supported by the group of interested and concerned residents. The age range of the seniors that come to the center is between 60 and 96 years, with very few in their 60's. The majority are in their middle 80's and older. We lost 30 seniors in the last year and a half - they have either passed away, moved away, are in a nursing facility, or are just not able to make it in to the center. On average, there are 18 who go to North White Plains, and 15-20 who go to Armonk. We are seeing a lot of active seniors attending exercise classes and going on the trips, but they are not coming to the center.

Ed Lobermann was part of the FOCUS group and was in attendance at this PRAB to discuss his concerns further. He would like to see more trips. The Town currently pays for the buses - any assistance the Town provides is beneficial. He would like to see the Town Board allocate more money in the budget for trips - not only would this be a dollar investment, but also an investment for the good of the community. Fourteen trips are planned for this year, average 35 people per trip - resident and non-resident, average trip cost is \$55. The ceramics room is filled with ceramics - this program was thriving at one point, but now has one to two people attending on any given senior day. The thought is to maybe downsize and apply resources for trips, and this will allow an additional room available for after-school activities at Hergenhan. Seniors can still take ceramics, but the room will be set up differently and the closet space will be used more efficiently to store the ceramics items and other supplies.

Mr. Lobermann also discussed the allocation of money. He feels it would be a terrible mistake to cut the drop-in center. The center helps emotionally and physically - you can't put a monetary amount on this. The money should not be allocated for a diminishing program and put into a thriving program - the Town Board should allocate more money.

No approval or recommendation needed from this discussion.

Department Staffing Update: It was Matt's decision to wait until after the summer camp season to begin the hiring process. A recreation staff person will likely be hired in September or October.

Armonk Baseball League Improvements to Town Hall/Legion Field: Handout distributed - 'Certificate of Appropriateness Application Procedure' - ABL is looking to improve Town Hall field; because it has landmark status, they have to go through additional steps with Landmarks Preservation Committee. ABL is paying for the improvements. Any signs should be consistent with the recreation parks signage project (see above). The PRAB is in agreement and gives its approval to move forward with the field improvements.

The meeting was closed and adjourned at 8:00PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 8/1 at 6:15PM