

TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD ("PRAB")
Minutes of June 7, 2016 Meeting

In Attendance: Norma Hill, Karl Hinrichs, Susan Lichten, Brendan Malloy, Matt Trainor, Dan Zenkel

Absent: Lisa Larsen, Frank Lattarullo, Charlene Decker, Steve D'Angelo

The Minutes of the May 3, 2016 meeting were approved.

In Lisa Larsen's absence, Dan Zenkel agreed to serve as Secretary of the meeting.

Request from Marnie Levy for a Donation of a Butterfly Garden in Memory of Eric Levy: Marnie Levy appeared before the Board, along with her children, Emily, 6, and Jake, 9, Marnie's husband, Eric, passed away two years ago. Eric loved nature and the outdoors, and, in his honor, the Levy family donated a 10' x 20' Butterfly Garden to the Rosenthal JCC. The garden was used as an outdoor classroom and a Sukkhot. The Rosenthal JCC is closing, and Ms. Levy is seeking a new location for the Butterfly Garden. She presented an application to donate the Garden to the Town of North Castle, and the PRB considered the application under the new Memorials guidelines. There was discussion about other alternatives that Marnie had considered. There was also discussion about the likelihood that the garden could be maintained and would not deteriorate. It was agreed that Matt would:

- Show photos of the garden to the seniors and gauge their reaction;
- Talk to Marnie about whether she had had discussions with Congregation B'Nai Yisrael;
- Reach out to the Girl Scouts and see if they have interest in maintaining it; and
- Contact Breezemont Day Camp and determine if they are interested in accepting a donation of the Garden.

The Board agreed to defer any decision on Marnie's application until the July meeting pending the results of these discussions.

Wampus Brook Park South: The project has gone out to bid. Responses are due July 14. Irrigation is included in the bid. The irrigation water will be drawn from the adjacent brook.

Camp 2016 Report/Update: The Byram Hills School Board has notified Matt that, beginning with 2017, the camp will begin the week after school ends. Although this is less desirable from an attendance and preparation standpoint, it could enhance marketing as the dates will be more predictable, making it easier to market the camp earlier in the year. 2016 Chippewa enrollments are consistent with 2015; however, Kick-A-Poo enrollments are ahead of last year. The PRB requested that future camp updates include last year-to-date and budget numbers, as these will assist Board members in assessing enrollment trends.

Matt also presented historical numbers for the camp. The question was raised as to how pool rental fees were accounted for in the past. That question must be answered in order to fairly assess the camp's historical performance. The Board asked Matt to clarify that issue at the next meeting.

Pool 2016 Report – Opening Day, Operations, Registration Numbers:

344 snack tickets were processed on opening day this year compared to 240 last year. This year's weather was much warmer. Currently, 399 families have joined the pool as compared to 315 at this time last year. For all of 2015, a total of 455 families joined the pool. 2016 year-to-date revenue is \$164,350. The 2016 revenue budget is \$220,000. Revenue from parties, swim lessons and day passes will supplement that derived from membership fees. The Board asked Matt to provide prior year-to-date and current year budgeted numbers for the pool.

There has not been an influx of requests for a swim team.

Matt reported that pool staffing has gone well. To attract lifeguards, the Recreation Department offered free lifeguard training courses. If those who take the course complete the summer working as a lifeguard at the pool, the \$75 fee they paid for the course will be refunded.

The fact that the Town does not control the pool's web page (it remains under the control of the previous lessee) was discussed. Brendan volunteered to help with search engine and google optimization to help drive web search traffic to the town's website instead of to the website that is controlled by the prior operator.

Discussion on Field Use by Non-Resident, For-Profit Leagues/Teams:

Matt reported on an issue relating to "travel" and "all-star" teams that have a majority of out-of-North Castle players. Some of these teams have been reserving large blocks of field space. The current field rental rules permit this. As a result, for-profit leagues and large numbers of non-residents are benefiting from below market rentals of North Castle field space. Matt reported that he intends to create a separate pricing category that will apply to field rentals by organized, non-resident (greater than 40% non-resident) team sports. The current pricing scheme does not distinguish these organizations.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, July 5 at 6:15 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Zenkel
Meeting Secretary