

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ("PRAB")
Minutes of May 4, 2021 Meeting**

In Attendance: Karl Hinrichs, Norma Hill, Brendan Molloy, Lois Mallin, Jennifer Clark, Matt Trainor, Jennifer Giusti, Saleem Hussain, Lisa Larsen

Guest: Melissa Cohen Horowitz

Absent: None

Minutes of the April 6, 2021 meeting were *amended*, accepted and approved.

Chairman Hinrichs introduced Melissa Cohen Horowitz, who was directly recommended by Mindy Berard as a prospective PRAB member, and welcomed her to the meeting. Melissa has lived in Windmill since 1993, has two grown children who have gone through the Byram Hills school system, as well as having attended after-school recreation programs, sports, and summer camp, and is an attorney practicing corporate litigation.

Chairman Hinrichs also welcomed Matt Trainor back as Superintendent, and thanked Lois Mallin for her service, dedication and time on the PRAB and wished her all the best with her move.

OLD BUSINESS

IBM Community Park Restrooms: Superintendent Trainor attended a site meeting. Work to begin shortly, starting with excavation and bringing utilities underground. Estimated completion is end of June, early July.

Wampus Brook Park South: Discussions are being had between Superintendent Trainor, Chairman Hinrichs, and Director of Planning Adam Kaufman to see how to get this project moved along. Matt Trainor will find out what we need from an approval and environmental review standpoint, working closely with Adam Kaufman.

Town Pool: Town Board member Saleem Hussain shared detailed information regarding the status of the pool - handout distributed. In summary, there are three things of importance from the Town's standpoint: ALE's progress toward reducing the number of owed bond holders; the mortgage amount owed by ALE; any needs of residents that should be considered for investment prior to transfer of pool ownership. Pool needs repairs - Jennifer Giusti and Matt Trainor have a list, but will need time to get updated pricing. The town doesn't want to do any work because they don't own the pool. Investing now depends on ownership. Saleem Hussain wants to understand what we need to be investing in.

Fields: IBM 3 has been shut down since the beginning of the season for maintenance. Top soil has been added, aerated, and seeded. Field currently closed for soccer, open for baseball. Parks Foreman Kevin Foley recommends keeping the field closed until summer so the grass seed can germinate. Superintendent Trainor agrees.

Rec Subdivision Fees: *The question was asked as to how much money is in this account. Superintendent Trainor will find out and report at next month's meeting.*

NEW BUSINESS

Parks and Recreation Department Staffing: We are looking to hire a Recreation Supervisor to replace Senior Recreation Leader Jerry Stroud, who left for purposes of retirement. Superintendent Trainor has interviewed two candidates to date, one more interview is scheduled. The deadline to apply is May 14th. There is no current binding civil service list. We can hire on a provisional basis; the candidate can take the test when it becomes available at a later date. We are also looking to hire seasonal employees for the Parks Department - no applicants, hiring is very difficult.

Summer Camp 2021: Camp registration is extremely low, approximately 40 kids per session in Chippewa and 30-40 kids per session Kick-a-Poo. Early bird rates end on May 14. There is the possibility to consider cancelling camp due to these enrollment numbers and Covid-19. Each camp needs to hire a new nurse this year. We have to be able to offer a job and feel comfortable, so people can make alternate plans if camp does get cancelled.

Jennifer Clark suggests using Survey Monkey to find out what residents want made available for Town camp that could possibly boost enrollment. The department is strongly encouraging the new camp directors to take a different, fresh approach. Brendan Molloy says town camp is a tremendous service. He would like to see it run, even it at no profit. Karl Hinrichs asked Matt Trainor to inform the PRAB when a decision is made to either run camp or cancel it.

Lombardi Park Pavilion: Pavilion is closed, the structure poles are rotted, this is of urgent concern and needs immediate attention. Superintendent Trainor has a meeting planned with engineer this week. He is looking into the cost of repairing with new posts versus replacing with new structure. This is a safety hazard right now; the engineer will give professional opinion on how to proceed. Member Jennifer Clark would like the IBM pavilion evaluated so not in the same position.

Lombardi Park Tennis and Basketball Courts: Courts are destroyed and need to be redone from a safety element requiring a decent amount of money.

Miscellaneous Notes: Jennifer Clark would like the following items on June agenda:

1. Agronomist for fields
2. Speed bumps in IBM Community Park parking lot
3. Mylar balloons stuck in trees

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

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