

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ("PRAB")
Minutes of April 5, 2022 Meeting**

In Attendance: Karl Hinrichs, Brendan Molloy, Norma Hill, Jennifer Clark, Sharon Weiss, Brian Baranaskas, Jeff Scott, Matt Trainor, Jennifer Giusti, Lisa Larsen, Matt Milim

Absent: None

Guests: Linda Cantatore, Angela Monforte, Leah Kasnia, Stu Brown, Susan Geffen, Carol Bidjarano, Mitzi Weissman, Ed Woodyard, Robby Morris, Neal Bauman, Sharon Tomback, Barbara DiGiacinto

Chairman Hinrichs welcomed Jeff Scott as an official PRAB member at which point the meeting was called to order.

Minutes of the March meeting were accepted and approved - all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS - GENERAL UPDATES

Playground Project: Superintendent Trainor is requesting Supervisor Schiliro to sign the installation agreements with Corsetti Contracting. New playground equipment should be delivered by mid to late August.

Lombardi Tennis and Basketball Courts Resurfacing: The bid was awarded to Sport-Tech Construction -work will be scheduled once Clerk Simon receives documents, and, if schedule does not conflict with recreation programming, the work should be completed in spring.

Lombardi Building Takedown / Development: Many members did a walk-through of the building and have a better understanding of the issues. Jennifer Clark was surprised at how big the building was, and thinks it would be a wonderful space in which to offer more classes. We can offer more programs and involve more kids - cut down on some long program waitlists. Additionally, the activity bus goes there as well. Brendan Molloy feels that a building is needed, not nothing; focus should be in maintaining current facilities better. In Matt Milim's view, it's very expensive to design a new building from scratch; a better idea would be to go the prefab route. He also feels the PRAB should get costs and make a recommendation to be put forth to Town Board and to couple this with survey results. Superintendent Trainor and Assistant Superintendent Giusti strongly believe there is a need for more classrooms. Brendan Molloy wants something to replace the existing building. Karl Hinrichs said the heating system won't make it beyond next winter. Jennifer Clark and Brendan Molloy feel that the Town Board should not vote on anything without recommendations from PRAB. Superintendent Trainor said he will fill up any space that they are given with new or existing programs. He needs an idea of what is financially realistic. He is worried about the water system and storage capacity. Jennifer Clark would like to see how many more families can be serviced with this additional resource. Recommendation from Chairman Hinrichs to Superintendent Trainor is to see what the prefab building cost is - we already know the water component issue. Assistant Superintendent Giusti said Lombardi Park is very busy currently and there is not enough parking.

Wampus Brook Park Beautification Donation Discussion: Members of the Beautification Committee, members of other Boards and the Committee, and Guests met to revisit and discuss thoughts and opinions regarding the items ordered to be placed in Wampus Brook Park - two picnic tables and several small mushroom structures for children. The PRAB approved the donation several months ago, items have been ordered but not yet delivered, and Superintendent Trainor and members of the PRAB will choose the proper area in the park to house the items. The intent of the Beautification Committee was to have an inviting, low key environment within walking distance to town, avoiding the hustle and bustle of a playground. They were not shopping for Lombardi Park and did not buy the items for any other reason. The Committee also thought that they had both the PRAB and Town Board seals of approval; they never thought they would be in this position today. Liaison Milim said it was about judgment and

personal taste. PRAB became alarmed when they heard items were going to be cemented in. He thought it was important to reopen the topic so not to make a mistake, and to get everyone's feedback.

Guest Ed Woodyard said it's a question of placement and purpose. The park is in a historic district with a phenomenal gazebo. Seems like one of the other four parks would be more suitable. He is okay with the picnic tables, but has a problem with placement of mushroom-like structures. It was suggested to do a test run at either IBM Community Park or Lombardi Park to see if kids like it, without cementing the structures in permanently during the trial.

Guest Neal Bauman said there are many dedicated people and feels there should be a way for folks from three committees to work this out.

Guest Leah Kasnia agrees with Neal Bauman. She would like to see what the items look like - don't cement them in yet. Why is it okay for adults to sit and not children?

Guest Robby Morris likes the idea; the issue is with placement. A suitable spot might be in the Hergenhan back parking lot, possibly for seniors to use - put them in more heavily used space.

Guest Susan Geffen has worked with the Beautification Committee, said they have done wonderful things. She is on LPC and ARB - her concern is what the items look like. It's all about placement; she wants to keep the look of the park as it is.

Guest and Co-Historian Sharon Tomback said it's the primary focal point from St. Stephen's Church and the primary entrance to town. We should be very careful of installing little things and paying more attention to preserving what's already there.

Guest Linda Cantatore was a teacher for over thirty years, grew up in Armonk since she was five years old, and is all for children. She wants to keep the natural beauty of the park. Movable picnic tables are okay, permanently installed items are a different story. Doesn't seem worth it to put in one mushroom table structure with four stools going around it.

The Beautification Committee feels the fairest way to move forward is to place the items in Wampus Brook Park and see how they look. It would be a poor idea to make a decision sight unseen. Most of the PRAB is in agreement and is willing to do walk through and try to get a consensus. Superintendent Trainor will let everyone know when the items are delivered and on how to move forward.

Wampus Brook Park Lighting / Electrical Update: Superintendent Trainor has a proposal from OLA Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$19,500 for this and is requesting approval from Town Board. The goal is to bring the lighting and electrical grid up to a higher standard, including LED lighting, more efficient and consolidated wiring, and upgraded and appropriate hardware throughout the park. OLA services include determination of necessary scope of work to implement upgrades, the preparation of bid documents for distribution to interested contractors, consultation and evaluation services once bids are received, and site visits and consultation once work is approved and awarded.

There was much discussion amongst Guests and PRAB about what is to become of the current light posts, obtained from Gramercy Park by Jack Lombardi over 40 years ago and which are not in the best condition at present. Ed Woodyard feels that they are beautiful lamps but are in trouble; the current lamps should be used as a design template for future work. Sharon Tomback feels there needs to be a pricing proposal for maintenance and repairs, rewiring if possible, get new look a-likes - recasting is just one idea. Brendan Molloy noted three options - one is to fix what we currently have, next is to mold the current lamps to make new ones, and finally to purchase new lights to match those in Armonk Square. Sharon Weiss would like consideration made to move the lights closer to the pathway, if reasonable.

Town Board is looking to commit to moving this work forward. Superintendent Trainor is happy to feed information to PRAB, but it is the engineer's job to determine technical specifications. We can give input, but they will do base calculations and show us the design. Brendan Molloy wants to see the layout before it's agreed upon. Ed Woodyard asked that the Architectural Review Board, Landmarks Preservation Committee, and Historical Society be included in the process. Neal Bauman commented that a collector should be notified before the old posts are discarded.

Clove Road Dugouts: Superintendent Trainor is expecting bids to be returned next week; the challenge will be the timing given many spring festivities in that space.

Recreation Survey Discussion: Superintendent Trainor is waiting for Administrator Hay to get Town Board approval before releasing the survey to the community. The survey will be distributed through email. Data will be returned through Survey Monkey - this data will be available to all members.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

Authorization to Bid - Painting of Breezeway and Exterior Fascia of Town Pool Building: Jennifer Clark questioned Superintendent Trainor's request to Town Board to solicit bids in the range of \$20-30,000 to paint the breezeway and exterior fascia of the pool building. This work would include the repair and patching of concrete sections that have deteriorated on the outside of the building. She asked why the town is spending money for something it doesn't own? What is the town doing to gain ownership of the pool and when? The town should adjust its budgetary priorities. Superintendent Trainor replied that painting is not considered to be a capital project - it's an everyday function of a department.

Town Pool Update: Liaison Milim has been trying to set up a meeting of attorneys, for the town and for the pool owners- with no success. He also asked Supervisor Schiliro to get in touch with the Attorney General in White Plains for guidance several weeks ago but has not heard back yet. Chairman Hinrichs wrote a letter to the Town Board requesting that members take a walk-through with PRAB members once the pool has been drained. There are ongoing problems with the purchase and maintenance of the facility.

Bike / Running Trail: Jeff Scott has been in touch with Supervisor Schiliro to discuss the ten-year old plan for a biking and running trail. Supervisor sent him the old plans that were approved, but not executed. The project scope will be reviewed, money has already been allocated, but not yet spent. Plans will be distributed to PRAB.

Armonk Outdoor Art Show: Brian Baranaskas wants to know more information about the art show that is held on the grass fields at IBM Community Park; he believes that that is should be held in the parking lot. Feels this should be a recommendation for this year, especially given the new bathroom facility off the parking lot.

Outdoor Movies: Sharon Weiss asked if we have ever considered pop up screens to watch outdoor movies as a town-wide event as opposed to a school district event.

Parks Sub-Committee: Chairman Hinrichs would like to form a sub-committee to develop a comprehensive plan for the parks - to characterize each one individually.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 5/3

The meeting adjourned at 9:00PM.