

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ("PRAB")
Minutes of April 11, 2023 Meeting**

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

Absent: None

Guest: Brad Lerman

Minutes: Minutes of the March 7th meeting were accepted and approved.

OLD BUSINESS - UPDATES

Lombardi Park and IBM Field Project Concepts: Conceptual plans, drawn up by Kellard Sessions, were distributed. Lombardi Park concept is cut and dry - regrade and install drainage. The plans for fields are oriented the same way as present. Reworking elevations, installing drainage, go to Town Board to get approval to come up with bid specs. There are several conceptual plans for the IBM fields. There is the issue of the concrete barrier as well as the manhole near the bottom right of the field – options are to either move it or to situate around it. Much discussion ensued about PFOS (Perfluorooctane sulfonic acid), artificial turf, safety, etc. The PFOS conversation hasn't begun; we don't need to wait for design in order to address the concerns of PFOS. We need to figure out design and layout issues first. One member suggested that we proceed with Lombardi as IBM is being discussed. Liaison Milim disagrees - Town Board has limited resources; best to look at both projects and compare. Next step will be for Superintendent Trainor to get general specs and pricing from Kellard. Liaison Milim agrees to get pricing info, list pros and cons of seed and turf, and then meet with Town Board. Member Weiss thinks we need qualified people instead of lay people. There are many articles on PFOS and she would like to have people well-versed on the subject. Hopefully a recommendation can be made as a group quickly.

Lombardi Park Water Upgrades: The Board of Education, at their meeting on 4/11, is expected to approve the easement to run a line through school property. Water and Sewer Director Misiti and Kellard Sessions have been working together and hope to have bid documents out in the next month or so. This will be a huge upgrade to the park and then the next step will be to address the identified issues with the old building.

Fields: Fields are open and being fully used. The Armonk Easter egg hunt had a huge turnout, a much smaller turnout, however, at the North White Plains event.

Pool - Surfacing and Deck: Water will be turned on Thursday 4/11 and testing will be done to see where leaking is coming from. The pool deck is in terrible condition; we will, however, avoid doing patchwork. We will try to perform basic remedial repair work in order to be able to get through the season.

Wampus Brook Park Lighting: A proposal has been submitted to Town Board for approval to move forward to bid.

Wampus Brook Park North Bridge: Work is to be scheduled.

Wampus Brook Park South: Cleanup has started and is expected to take another week or two to complete.

Donations Conversation: Revised guidelines were distributed. It was asked that everyone read them over and be ready to discuss at the May PRAB meeting for finalization.

Beautification Committee Donation: The foundation has been laid – just waiting for the statue to be delivered.

NEW BUSINESS

Trail and Path Extension: In Member Scott's handout from last month, the objectives of trail and path expansion include providing additional natural forms of outdoor exercise for town members, as requested from the parks survey done in 2022. This expansion would bring outside access into Armonk by connecting to other Westchester paths already present and would connect North Castle's amazing and close (yet very much disjointed) parks into a larger "parks" entity. It is expected that this expansion would increase property and business value by allowing foot and bike access from Armonk Square to upper North shops. Member Scott requests that this topic be a monthly agenda item so as to move the effort forward in a timely matter and to take the issue seriously. He'd like the PRAB to figure out phases and have an overall vision on this. We won't have all the answers but what is the overall value back to town? Liaison Milim will introduce Members Scott and Weiss to Planner Adam Kaufman for his input.

Registration System Crash: The registration system crashed during the recent sign-up period. A lottery enrollment system was put in place in order to move the registration forward to completion - many issues surfaced including unclear communication to the community, as well as a massive manual clean-up effort by department staff. Suggestion that PRAB members should be a sounding board.

Pickleball - North White Plains Community Center Gym: Members Weiss and Hinrichs met to play pickleball in the new gym. Member Weiss said the service line is 26" from the wall, which is not usable, and the color of the pickleball lines blend into the woodwork. The gym can only fit one court lengthwise - requesting new lines put down in bright color. Liaison Milim read an email from Superintendent Trainor explaining that the gym is not a full-sized gym, it's an elementary school style gym. Therefore, people using the gym for basketball, indoor soccer, pickleball, etc... are all able to play but with using minor modifications to the game due to the space limitations and with an awareness of the close proximity of the walls to the actual gym floor space.

Next Meeting: 5/2/23

The meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.