

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE  
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ("PRAB")  
Minutes of February 1, 2022 Meeting**

**In Attendance:** Karl Hinrichs, Brendan Molloy, Norma Hill, Jennifer Clark, Sharon Weiss, Matt Trainor, Jennifer Giusti, Lisa Larsen, Matt Milim, Saleem Hussain, Chris Mattoni

**Absent:** None

Chairman Hinrichs welcomed Chris Mattoni as a guest and potential PRAB member at which point the meeting was called to order.

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

**OLD BUSINESS - GENERAL UPDATES**

**North Castle Community Center Renovation:** Superintendent Trainor reported that work, according to Town Administrator Kevin Hay, should be completed by mid-February. There is less debris in the gym and the plumbing has been completed. The gym floor needs major rehabilitation. Superintendent Trainor will look at alternate flooring other than hard wood. He will seek out companies to offer options and assess the current state. A different flooring surface will make the gym space more versatile in general, but cost will decide. Programming at the community center has been very difficult. Valhalla schools do not operate an activity bus, and we are in competition with the North White Plain Library which offers many of the same programs as we do and does so for free. Member Molloy looks at it as the community is being served. The use of the library 80% as library and the remaining time for the use is by seniors. A thought is to split the building - multi-purpose room to the library and the gym to recreation. Guest Chris Mattoni raised some points to think about the flooring of the gym - would it support all types of activities well. He also feels that there would be a logistical space problem with spectators if the library and gym run programs together.

**Playground Project:** Superintendent Trainor had a work session with Town Board. The Board approved to move forward with the project which includes PIP surfacing for the playground at IBM Community Park. The vendor is putting paperwork together - expectation is to have all four playgrounds installed by end of summer or fall.

**Lombardi Tennis/Basketball Courts Resurfacing:** The bid is out; 4 or 5 vendors have had questions which indicates that people are interested. Bids close the first week in March - actual work will begin on or about April 1.

**Lombardi Park Pavilion:** Demolition on the concrete will begin on Wednesday 2/2. The degree of rot will be determined once work begins.

**Lombardi Building Takedown/Development:** Superintendent Trainor received the proposal from the Kellard engineer for assessment and development of the project. There are two options - knock down and rebuild in the same place to house water system, or move the water system as an extension of the parks garage. Member Clark suggests the new building should have an area for concessions, whether it be an awning or something permanent.

**American Flag from Elks Lodge:** The dedication ceremony was cancelled due to inclement weather – a new date TBD for the not too distant future.

**Beautification Items for Wampus Brook Park:** Items have been ordered - placement TBD.

**Message Board Centers for Betsy Sluder and Wampus Brook Park:** Missing brackets have been received - message boards are ready for install.

**Town Pool Update:** Town Board member Hussain distributed an information sheet for the pool which discusses pool ownership, Attorney General issues, bond holders, the eventual purchase and renting of the pool, repairs, etc. Liaison Milim said ALE has an attorney who the town has been trying to contact with great difficulty. There is a logistical web that needs to be untangled. PRAB members comments: the bond holders will never agree to give up their bond - this could go on forever; the property naturally deteriorates as time passes; we have to actually operate the pool and spend money; the town has first right of refusal; it's bad to offer pool to people this season, almost a liability. Silly to rent \$114k a year for a pool in such poor condition where feet are being cut and scraped causing blood - this is a known hazard; Town Board will pay \$1 million, solidify contract to ensure we don't lose the pool, start maintaining it, or just walk away. Member Molloy asks Liaison Milim to talk to Town Board about spending money. Liaison Milim thinks it's first important to see survey results to see if people want the pool.

**Other Miscellaneous Topics:** Member Clark was asked to read a letter written by a mother of 2 daughters, ages 3.5 and 6, with suggestions - stressful registration process, kindergarten activities hosted at Coman Hill because they are not permitted to ride the activity bus, use additional different companies for the more popular classes, weekend classes offered during the week too, not just on weekends - just to name a few.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Retirement of Mimi Flanagan - 25 years of service:** Superintendent Trainor is contemplating hiring a lower level rec person; this would present an opportunity for someone to learn. He feels that hiring another full-time account person is not needed, as he will handle accounting items at this time.

**Recreation Survey:** Chairman Hinrichs distributed a copy of an initial survey. He wants to get a report card on current programming and gather feedback. There are also rec funds - he wants to see where the public wants to spend these funds. The survey is broken down into three categories - programs, infrastructure, and demographics. Member Sharon Weiss asked how the survey is to be distributed. Chairman Hinrichs plans to send out a Constant Contact email linking directly to Survey Monkey - the senior population might be underserved. PRAB Liaison Matt Milim said the Library sent out a post card with a QR scan. After much discussion back and forth, it was decided to form a three-person sub-committee to go through the survey structure and questions piece by piece and then report back to the entire PRAB. This committee will consist of Chairman Hinrichs and members Hill and Weiss.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 3/1

The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.