

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ("PRAB")
Minutes of November 9, 2021 Meeting**

In Attendance: Norma Hill, Jennifer Clark, Brendan Molloy, Sharon Weiss, Matt Trainor, Saleem Hussain, Lisa Larsen, Faith Lorenzo, Mitzy Weissman, Angela Monforte, Carol Bidjarano, Barbara DiGiacinto

Absent: Karl Hinrichs, Jennifer Giusti

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

OLD BUSINESS - GENERAL UPDATES

Replacing of Playgrounds - Follow up to Zoom session: The Zoom attendance was a bust with only three people attending - PRAB member Norma Hill, her partner Harvey, and one other participant. Superintendent Trainor has received numerous emails with consistent input...maximize the number of swings that are ADA inclusive and compliant. Expense and space become issues - require spending more money. We have to consider many types of disabilities including wheelchairs, mental, visual, and others. Discussions ensued regarding good playgrounds or a great playground. Do we want themed playgrounds, such as a musical theme for toddler's. Also, we would like to know the cost discrepancy between engineered wood fiber and poured-in-place surfacing. Superintendent Trainor will contact representative to get pricing for the different surfaces. He is still holding out hope to get a Purchase Order late November.

Elks Flag Donation Project: Project has been approved by Town Board. Flag will be hung at the Hergenhan Center in the main room on the first floor.

Lombardi Park Pavilion: Town Board approved and bid awarded. Contractors have been engaged; building permits have been submitted; work is expected to begin in a week or so.

Old Building at Lombardi Park: Superintendent Trainor met with Kellard engineers and is awaiting a proposal. They would design a similar building, just smaller scale.

Parks Staffing: Interviews have been held; we are waiting to appoint candidate in a week or two.

NEW BUSINESS

Beautification Committee - Wampus Park North Donation: The Beautification Committee has \$8k left in their budget and would like to donate two picnic tables - one 6 foot and the other an 8 foot ADA accessible, plus a separate, smaller structure for young preschoolers to sit on, like an ant or a mushroom - both low to the ground and with a color scheme that would fit in with the natural beauty of the park setting (handout distributed with pictures and proposed locations). Committee members wanted to know if the PRAB thought it was a good idea and whether or not they had interest. Much discussion ensued about the ant or mushroom structure. An overall plan is needed, a possible theme for different items down the road - ones that blend in and are to fit in with nature, and not ones to make the park look like a children's playground. The park has a colonial look and some PRAB members feel it should remain that way. The main thing is for items to go along with the theme of the park. Superintendent Trainor will bring some ideas forward to the Beautification Committee members - there will be no need to involve Town Board for approval.

Lighting Upgrade for Wampus Brook Park: The current poles are 30 feet apart and are in bad shape - some are meant for indoors. Superintendent Trainor and Foreman Foley met with an electrical engineer to see what would be appropriate. Power is not conduit - lines just underground. New poles, adding more poles, and LED lighting is being considered.

Small Bridge - Wampus Brook Park: The intent is for Parks staff to make repairs as soon as they can allocate time to schedule.

Donation of Bench in Memory of James Ross: An application for memorial donation of a park bench was presented in honor of James (Jimbo) Ross. Jimbo was a huge part of the Town's operations for a long time. PRAB approved the application - all in favor. PRAB member Brendan Molloy asked to see the inventory listing of all items in all of the parks that Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Giusti put together. As an aside, PRAB member Jennifer Clark said that we need a tree regeneration program.

Welcome New PRAB Member: Superintendent Matt Trainor welcomed Sharon Weiss to the PRAB as an official member, thanking her for her interest in serving the community, and looks forward to working together.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 12/7