

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

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

**Absent:** None

**Guests:** Leah Kasnia, Carol Bidjarano, Mitzi Weissman, Angela Monforte, Kay Anderson, Nancy Battistelli, Barbara DiGiacinto, Saleem Hussain

**Minutes:** Minutes of the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting were accepted and approved.

**OLD BUSINESS - UPDATES**

**Playground Replacement Project:** The playgrounds at IBM Community Park and Lombardi Park are completed and open for everyone's enjoyment. The opening of Winkler and the North Castle Community Center parks will open shortly - we are just waiting for more engineered wood fiber. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony - Councilman Milim will notify PRAB of date and details.

**Lombardi Park Old Recreation Building:** Not discussed.

**North White Plains Community Center:** Superintendent Trainor will inform the PRAB as soon as he knows when the center will open – timing is currently uncertain. Conversations are continuing with contractors regarding plumbing renovation. We are also waiting for the alarm system to be installed.

**Fields:** The Town Board approved agreement with Kellard Sessions to perform engineering services in regard to the ballfield drainage issues at IBM Community and Lombardi parks. TC Merritts survey costs were approved for both parks as well.

**Pool:** Councilman Milim said he would follow up in time when he would be able to share information. The Board is working hard, but they are currently in a blackout period.

**Staff:** Three new employees were hired effective 11/1: one on the recreation side with the title of Recreation Supervisor, and two parks staff bringing parks staffing to full capacity plus one.

**Wampus Brook Park Lighting:** TC Merritts will be on site at Wampus Brook Park to perform survey work on Wednesday 11/9. Once the survey work is completed, OLA Consulting will begin engineering.

**Wampus Brook Park North Bridge:** With the two newly hired and the existing parks staff, this project will be completed in-house over the next few months.

**Wampus Brook Park South:** Superintendent Trainor reported that the DEC permit was renewed. Parks and Highway will work cooperatively to clean up the property - scrape, grade, top soil, seed, etc. The Beautification Committee asked/offered if they can partner with the PRAB to do some work in the park. The committee suggests a series of pollinator gardens; we want to educate the public that nice plants can grow without using toxins, and without requiring irrigation. The creation of pollinator gardens would not create any additional work for parks staff. Councilman Milim advised that the town does want to encourage pollinator gardens. Some PRAB member input follows. Member Clark has concerns that the space could be used for something larger. Perhaps a pollinator garden is too small and we lose the opportunity to put in something bigger. Member Molloy is very against parking and

doesn't want to see just grass planted in the space - his fear is that it will become a dog park. He would love to see a pollinator garden. Beautification members reiterated that the pollinator gardens would take up a very small area and be something pretty and environmentally friendly. Chairman Hinrichs said the newly formed subcommittee will brainstorm and timing will be for the spring, with parks and highway working together to achieve our goal.

**Beautification Committee Mushrooms:** Everyone has seen the photoshopped mockups of the mushrooms in several areas within Wampus Brook Park. Superintendent Trainor will do similar mockups in alternate sites, such as Lombardi Park, for example. The PRAB will vote on the mushroom placement at such time as the additional photoshopped mockups are completed. Superintendent Trainor will let Beautification Committee members know when the PRAB plans to vote.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**New Donation from Beautification Committee - Statue at Hergenhan:** Beautification Committee members gave a presentation about improving the entrance of the Hergenhan Center so as to make it more inviting. They would like to put a statue (photo distributed to PRAB) in the area to the left of the Hergenhan main/side entrance with river rocks as the base foundation for the entire length of the side area. The company can have the statue delivered and situated in the desired spot - PRAB members and others will be on site - if it fits and all members like it, it will remain; if not, the company will cart it away. There was additional discussion that the river rocks may clash in color with the sidewalk and road. The color of the stairs should be changed and the entire area cleaned up - the entire side entrance from the door to the parking lot should be considered at the same time. Another comment, put the word 'ENTRANCE' on the awning above the door. The general feeling of the PRAB is positive - they like the idea and want to move forward in a comprehensive way.

Councilman DiGiacinto said a recommendation has to be made to Town Board and it then has to go on the Town Board meeting Agenda. This might have to be a project for the spring. The recommendation from the PRAB should be contingent upon seeing the statue in place and that it is well suited for the space and is asking that the Town Board review this request for general approval.

Motion from the PRAB to give Town Board its consensus for the project - the statue, river rocks, a general big cleanup to the side of the Hergenhan Center - its main entrance.

**Lombardi Park Water Upgrade / Restrooms:** The bathrooms at Lombardi Park are shut down until further notice - coliform has been detected in the well system. The Health Department requires an engineering report and plan to install a chlorinating system for the well. Ideal situation would be for the entire park to be on public water. The building would still need to come down. Sal Misiti of Water and Sewer supports this idea which could likely move the project forward.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 12/6

The meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.