

**TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD ("PRAB")
Minutes of September 14, 2021 Meeting**

In Attendance: Karl Hinrichs, Norma Hill, Jennifer Clark, Jennifer Giusti, Matt Trainor, Saleem Hussain, Lisa Larsen, Sharon Weiss, Art Adelman, Jay Singer, Barbara DiGiacinto, Nancy Battistelli, Terri Lobermann

Absent: Brendan Molloy

Minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting were reviewed, but not yet approved due to no quorum being present.

Chairman Hinrichs welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. He then read the PRAB Code of Conduct, handout distributed, just as a reminder of the rules for PRAB members and guests. These rules mirror Town Board guidelines.

OLD BUSINESS

IBM Community Park Restrooms: Superintendent Trainor reported that after long delays, all internal hook up is complete. There are several items remaining which are scheduled to be completed this week. The goal is to be ready for the Art Show which is Saturday 9/25 and Sunday 9/26. A lot of events are happening in town and at IBM Community Park, along with the art show, so it's good that the bathrooms will be operational.

Wampus Brook Park South: Superintendent Trainor and Planner Kaufman plan to sit down and discuss status of permits - which are valid and which have expired.

Replacing of Playgrounds: Superintendent Trainor met with Town Board who is in favor with this project to replace playgrounds at IBM Community Park, Lombardi Park, Winkler Park, and North White Plains Community Center. A handout showing aerial views was distributed. We will look to replace the playground at Quarry Park in approximately two years or so. Cost to replace the four playgrounds is \$441,000 - the only additional cost would be for engineered wood fiber. Realistic timeline for completion would be in the spring. The next step is to seek out community input, whether through Zoom or in person meetings. It is important to amplify certain voices of what the public is saying, so they feel the community is being represented. The PRAB is a good filtering lens. Superintendent Trainor will draft a notification to the public to be distributed.

Parks Work Schedule: Superintendent Trainor reported staff still working overtime on Saturdays due to short staff. They have been weeding on Main Street, doing beautification projects, and monitoring special events. We hope to hire seasonal employees back for next year.

PRAB member Clark asked if the North Castle Public Library helps out in any way after the art show. Costs vary significantly depending on the year and the weather - inclement weather can be a big issue. Parks staff seed and aerate the field after the art show with the hope of shutting it down for the season. Friends of the Library typically pay for seed and supplies. Town Board member Hussain reported that money made from the art show goes directly back to the town. He also reported that he is Liaison to the Library Board who has a whole set of people willing to help.

Lombardi Park Pavilion Repair: Superintendent Trainor reported difficulty in finding workers. In conversations with a welder/concrete person combined and should have a price this week and hopefully a Purchase Order by the end of the week.

Pool 2021 Report: Superintendent Trainor reported that operationally the pool went well. We did have to close for a few days and the last holiday weekend of the season due to Tropical Storm Ida. A Pass Type Comparative Report handout was distributed showing comparisons from 2015 to present. This year was lower in membership than 2020 and 2019 - we have to take a look at trends of membership. The decrease can be due in part to maintenance issues or Covid-19 - 2022 might be telling. Member Clark mentioned that there is a huge turnover in Windmill, with more children, and a lot of pool developers. Perhaps real estate and building might be an issue instead of maintenance. Chairman Hinrichs commented that 2015 may have been a high point and perhaps now we are getting more steady statistics. Liaison Hussain gave status on the purchase of the pool. There have been on and off meetings with ALE, the shell organization who owns the pool. Town wants to purchase the pool and ALE wants to transfer ownership. Interns have been calling bondholders requesting them to forgive the bond. Forty more bondholders forgave the debt, two hundred bondholders still owed money. ALE needs to get this number of bondholders owned money down in order for the Attorney General to be comfortable for transfer. Liaison Hussain said the Town Board is not willing to do major repairs and investments, such as pool resurfacing and deck issues, on a rental property.

Summer Camp 2021 Report: Superintendent Trainor reported that camp went well in terms of being open and functioning - there were no Covid-19 positive cases. There were no trips and no outside companies were brought in. We expect camp to be back to normal in 2022 barring Covid-19. Bring new blood with new directors for both camps as well.

NEW BUSINESS

Elks Lodge American Flag Project: Art Adelman and Jay Singer of the Elks Lodge # 535 gave a presentation about focusing on expanding their activities and membership in North Castle, and provided a handout highlighting some of the projects they support and/or are working on. Because the Elks does not have their own building or signage, they suffer from a lack of visibility - nobody knows they are in town - which of course affects recruitment. They are at tonight's PRAB to gain agreement for the provision by them at no cost to the Town of a mounted 4'7/16" x 4'6" cotton American Flag in a frame with plexiglass and a plaque reading "Donated by Mid-Westchester Elks Lodge # 535, Armonk, NY. If the PRAB agrees, the Elks would like to have a dedication ceremony. The flag would be mounted in the 1st floor main room at the Hergenhan Center - a focal point. Councilwoman DiGiacinto fully supports the project and thinks it's a great endeavor. The PRAB cannot vote today because of no quorum, but Chairman Hinrichs supports the project as well and would have no problem moving forward.

Programming Fall 2021: Superintendent Trainor reported that fall registration begins 9/15 at 10AM. We expect to bring in \$100k with registrations. Masks are required indoors for children ages 5 and up; no masks are required outdoors. The school district has been fantastic to work with.

New Full Time Recreation Staff Member: Senior Recreation Leader Jerry Stroud retired in 2019. Paula Widell-Pugliese has been hired as Recreation Supervisor effective 9/20 start date. She will handle summer camps, as well as the programming Superintendent Trainor was handling in the interim.

Miscellaneous: Chairman Hinrichs introduced Sharon Weiss is from North White Plains who is potentially interested in joining the PRAB. She uses the pool and the parks frequently and has a physical therapist background. Chairman Hinrichs also thanked PRAB members for compiling a project wish list. He has a copy of the old recreation survey from 10-11 years ago. He will adapt the survey questions to our current needs and have these questions ready for comment at the October meeting. He wants to engage the community to ask where they would like the money spent.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Next Meeting: Tuesday 10/5