

Yorktown Recreation Commission  
Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023  
Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Matt Talbert, Vice Chairperson Patrick Cumiskey (arrived late), Joe Falcone, Thomas Dunn, John Campobasso

Also Present: James Martorano Jr., Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; Marissa Lieto, Assistant Superintendent; Deanna Peterson, Senior Recreation Leader; Dominic Monopoli, Parks Foreman; Luciana Haughwout, Town Board Liaison (arrived late)

Absent: Commissioner Christine Dunn, Commissioner Diego Jaramillo

Chairperson Talbert called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes: **Commissioner Campobasso makes a motion to approve the February meeting minutes as revised by Vice Chairperson Cumiskey.** Commissioner Thomas Dunn seconds the motion. Chairperson Talbert, Commissioner John Campobasso, Commissioner Thomas Dunn and Commissioner Joe Falcone vote in favor of the motion. **Motion passes.**

Car Show Presentation:

Dominic Monopoli, Parks Foreman and Deanna Peterson, Senior Recreation Leader present a new a car show event in conjunction with Road Knights using the Shrub Oak Park parking lot and overflow lot to be held May 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 1:00pm, with a rain date for May 21<sup>st</sup>. Road Knights will be collecting donations and Recreation will be taking the registrations.

**Commissioner John Campobasso made a motion to approve the new event to be held on May 20<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of May 21<sup>st</sup>.** Commissioner Joe Falcone seconds the motion. Commissioner John Campobasso, Commissioner Joe Falcone, Commissioner Tom Dunn and Chairperson Talbert vote in favor of the motion. **Motion passes.**

Luciana Haughwout, Town Board Liaison, arrives at the meeting.

Aquatic Facility Update:

Chairperson Talbert presented to the Commission a prepared list of items of disrepair at the Brian J Slavin Aquatic Facility and the Junior Lake Pool Facility.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey arrives at the meeting.

Chairperson Talbert warned the commission that some of the needed repairs are significant, and if not addressed in the very near future, could have serious impacts to the facility itself or a potential to cause injury to Parks' staff or patrons and would like to present the issues to the Town Board.

Town Board Liaison Haughwout would like to hold a discussion to find the financing to improve the pool facilities.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey suggests the Commission submit the presentation prepare by Chairperson Talbert as the first part of the Capital Improvement Plan that has been discussed.

Superintendent Martorano notes the Capital Improvement Plan gets submitted annually and would like it added to the next meeting's agenda.

**Commissioner John Campobasso makes a motion to submit the Aquatics Facility document as phase one of a long-term Capital Improvement Plan to the Town Board.** Commissioner Joe Falcone seconds the motion. Commissioner John Campobasso, Commissioner Joe Falcone, Chairperson Talbert, Vice Chairperson Cumiskey and Commissioner Tom Dunn vote in favor of the motion. **Motion passes.**

#### Parks Department Equipment Update:

Parks Foreman Dominic Monopoli updates Chairperson Talbert and the Commission on the status of equipment at the Parks Department going into the spring season.

- One truck has been ordered but the Department is in desperate need of a dump truck
- The 2012 5910 is currently down with an engine knock – the estimated repair is about \$30,000, and the equipment itself is worth about \$70,000 at auction.
- John Deere can't go on the road and overheats. At this point the equipment can only be used to load trucks and trailers intermittently until it overheats.

Chairperson Talbert would like to add the equipment 5-year plan and vehicle binder to the next meeting's agenda.

Superintendent Martorano viewed the Westchester County Parks budgets and stated to the Commission that the Yorktown Parks Department maintains 14 parks in the same amount of money that the county maintains 2 parks.

Sparkle Lake Trail Proposal Update:

Tony Savastano thanks the Commission for the consideration, but due to the feedback from the community during the previous Public Hearing, he now wishes to withdraw his proposal for the Sparkle Lake Trail project. The scheduled walkthrough with the Commission and the community has been canceled.

Jane Daniel's Liaison Report:

Jane and Walt Daniel's ask the Commission and Superintendent Martorano permission to go into Legacy in order to complete their trail object report. The Commission recommends contacting Superintendent Martorano to set up a time to be escorted into Legacy.

Jane Daniel's informs the Commission she has submitted a proposal to conduct a talk for NYS Parks and Recreation about volunteers and Parks Departments joining forces to manage and maintain trail systems.

Jane notes that the flags around Sparkle Lake will be taken down once the weather is better.

Legacy Update:

Chairperson Talbert provides the Commission an update on the Legacy Field sinkhole situation. There will be a total of 6 test bore holes drilled, 3 are completed with the fourth scheduled to be complete tomorrow (3/3) and no estimate of completion on the fifth and sixth. It generally takes 5-7 days to complete the drilling per bore hole, followed by testing. Still no timeline on when Legacy Field will be opening, but hoping for the April 1st opening date.

Liaison Reports:

YYSC, Al French:

Al French asks about hard copy field permits to present at the fields.

Superintendent Martorano suggests writing the field usage in the notes section on the field permit form. Commissioner Campobasso suggests printing the field usage calendar.

Al French asks about the Sunday garbage collection policy. Superintendent Martorano explains they are looking for help. Commissioner Campobasso states it is not an enforceable rule and recommends people get their own dumpster for special events or tournaments.

Superintendent Martorano clarifies the invoicing process. Clubs will be sent a quote on the first of the month and an invoice on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month with payment due in 30 days following invoice.

For rainouts, the permittee should use the field update form.

Commissioner Campobasso and Chairperson Talbert recommend a buffer between the end of month and when invoice is sent out.

Chairperson Talbert would like to check minutes regarding the \$250 security deposit.

Chairperson Talbert asks the clubs to police themselves.

Chairperson Talbert suggests Superintendent Martorano reach out to the schools regarding cleaning the dugouts following use.

#### YAC, Tom Regan:

Tom Regan asks for clarification on drilling at Legacy. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey provides clarification.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey explained that they are doing their due diligence to be sure there is not another major subterranean void, and if found, it is rectified correctly so the park will be safe when opened. There is pressure on the company to have the park open April 1, but the Town have not gotten the promised geological assessment reports back yet.

#### SOAC, Dan Kelly:

Dan Kelly states he has planned the Ice Breaker Tournament without Legacy.

Dan Kelly informs the Commission on a parent suspension. Clubs cannot suspend someone from the Town parks, but can suspend from club activities and may be asked to leave from within the fence.

Rick Romanski asks if the Town Supervisor is willing to help with fees for using school fields if Legacy remains closed longer than scheduled.

Chris states the Easter Egg Hunt interrupts opening day.

#### Fam Jam Presentation:

Tom Dunn presents Fam Jam to the Commission. Last year Fam Jam raised money for 7 charities.

Fam Jam will be held Friday April 28 and Saturday April 29 with a Sunday rain date for Saturday.

Tom Dunn representing Fam Jam asks for a discount on the special event and stage rental fees.

Superintendent Martorano states the nonprofit fee is appropriate.

**Chairperson Talbert recommends putting it on the agenda for the next meeting.**

Sensory Garden Update:

Chairperson Talbert updates the Commission on the Sensory Garden. Anna is not ready to present to the Commission. The grant application encompasses both the upper and lower levels of the lot and is written for \$50,000. The new idea includes a water feature and uses the upper section as a sitting area. At this time the Commission has not seen the grant.

Chairperson Talbert asked if anyone wants to attend a Town Board session regarding the Sensory Garden. The Commission agreed to try and get on a work session.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey reiterated that as per the resolution creating the Commission, the Commission holds the “sole responsibility” of deciding what gets put in that area of park.

HESP Solar Project Update:

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey updates the Commission on the HESP Solar Project. The staging plan and new traffic control plan would take up 25% of the parking lot in four phases. DEP permits have not been obtained and therefore construction cannot begin. It is possible they could be ready to begin in May or June. The contract does not have dates; however, it does include a clause that states the construction will not unreasonably interfere with the use of our park. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey explained the Commission could push the start to November but that could precipitate a lawsuit from HESP. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey notes the Town Supervisor is strongly on the Commission’s side. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey clarifies the parking lot will be paved after the solar is installed.

The Commission would prefer to begin in November, however are agreeable to beginning on an earlier time frame following the obtaining of the DEP permit with the current staging plan and traffic control plan that reduces the parking by 25%.

Lights at 202: no update.

Currently not using Sourcewell.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Martorano provided an update on the Recreation staff. Marissa Lieto, Assistant Superintendent and Kim Hughes, Senior Office Assistant – Recreation have joined the Department. Have 9 Zoom interviews scheduled for the empty Recreation Assistant position.

Camp Locations: Ben Franklin for Lakeland Full Day, The Grange Fairgrounds for Half Day and French Hill for Yorktown Full Day.

Brochure PDF on the website.

Registration opens March 13th.

Camp Staffing Update: Staffing is low for camp counselors and won't be able to open up registration without the staff to adhere to DOH regulations.

Starting camp counselor rate: \$13.50; New hire guards: \$14.00

Pickleball and Tennis Courts: Granite Knolls Pickleball courts, Downing Tennis Courts and the Blackberry Woods Courts are cracking. Currently there is still no resolution to add a replacement account specifically for the tennis and pickleball courts.

Superintendent Martorano informed the Commission of the Ultimate Frisbee High School State Championship on Memorial Day weekend and wanted the Commission's blessing.

No update on Hunterbrook.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey reiterates the map of parkland needs to be created or updated and asks Superintendent Martorano to send him the name at the bottom of the map.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey would like Superintendent Martorano to send out the Capital Improvement Plan to the Commission.

Shrub Oak Stream Bank: Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission he spoke to Will Bautista in the Engineering Department about a potential plan utilizing riprap. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey recommends stuffing sandbags underneath the undermined slab to provide temporary support.

Superintendent Martorano updated the Commission on the Granite Knolls camera memory card that was installed and is recording.

#### New Business:

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey informs the Commission of additional Recreation Fees possibly coming in through developments currently with the Planning Department:

MJM Land Development: 13 lots, \$120,000

Garden Lane Development: 20 units, \$80,000

Corsaj Subdivision: 10 lots, \$90,000. 10% recreational land, 90% recreation fee

Underhill Farm: 148 units, \$592,000

Taken into Trust and Agency since 2011: \$552,000

Taken into Trust and Agency in 2022: \$60,000

As of 1/26/23 the current Trust and Agency balance is \$206,043.49 of which \$48,000 has already been committed.

Common practice is to maintain a buffer minimum balance in the T&A account of \$100,000.

**Chairperson Talbert makes a motion to allocate \$50,000 out of Trust and Agency towards a replacement playground at Blackberry Woods subject to final approval of the Commission. Commissioner Joe Falcone seconds the motion. Chairperson Talbert, Vice Chairperson Cumiskey, Commissioner Tom Dunn and Commissioner Joe Falcone vote in favor of the motion. Commissioner John Campobasso votes against the motion. Motion passes.**

Commissioner Campobasso notes that the cost for the replacement playgrounds should be covered by the Town and not coming out of Trust and Agency.

**Vice Chairperson Cumiskey makes a motion to go into closed session. Commissioner Joe Falcone seconds the motion. All in favor.**

The Commission enters closed session at 10:43pm.