

Yorktown Recreation Commission
Thursday, December 5th 2024
Town Hall Board Room

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Matt Talbert, Vice Chairperson John Campobasso, Commissioner Patrick Cumiskey, Commissioner Diego Jaramillo, Commissioner Joe Falcone, Commissioner Thomas Dunn, Alternate Commissioner Antonio Galvao

Also Present: James Martorano Jr, Superintendent of Recreation; Kim Hughes Senior Office Assistant Recreation; Susan Siegel, Councilwoman

Absent: Commissioner Christine Dunn; Town Board Liaison Luciana Haughwout

Chairperson Talbert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
Moment of Silence for past Commissioner Al Avitable.

Approval of the November Meeting Minutes: *Vice Chairperson John Campobasso makes a motion to approve the November minutes. Commissioner Tom Dunn Seconds the motion. Motion passes.*

SOAC President Dan Kelley to replace Steve Rosen
Jay Tomasulo suggests naming a field after former President Steve Rosen. This topic will be discussed in more detail at a future meeting.

COMMISSION VOTE:

Vote to nominate Matthew Talbert for Chair and John Campobasso for Vice Chair. Commissioner Thomas Dunn motions and Commissioner Diego Jaramillo Seconds. All Commissioners present in favor of the motion. Motion passes.

POOL / CAMP DISCUSSION:

Commissioner Christine Dunn recommends a 7.5% increase in Pool and a 10% increase in Camp. This conversation will be re-visited next meeting, as Commissioner Christine Dunn was not present at the meeting. Superintendent James Martorano states that The Town of Yorktown has been very behind in pay rates for Lifeguards and Camp Counselors. Vice Chair Campobasso would like to see the increases stabilize at some point. Next month there will be a vote on the Rates.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Residents come with 60 plus signatures with a request to upgrade Blackberry Woods playground and equipment.

Commissioner Patrick Comiskey explains that the playground is in really bad shape and it is not an easy task to upgrade any playground equipment. They attempted to “clean up” by removing the broken features. Suggestion to have all the petitioners to show up at a Town Board Meeting and ask for allocations to upgrade the playground.

SUPERINTENDANTS REPORT:

Superintendent Martorano provides the Commission an update on the following:

- Front Street will be closed Saturday December 7, 2024 at 4:00 PM for the Holiday Lights Parade. Parade starts at 6:00 PM and 55 people have signed up for the parade.
- Footings for lights at Granite Knolls Pickleball Court is completed. Thirty thousand for the lights has been put aside by the Town Comptroller.
- Leaves all picked up and parks have been winterized. Porta Johns at Legacy and Granite Knolls.
- Dog Park on the list of things to do.
- Fall programs are done Winter starts in January sign ups are going well.
- Visors are complete at Granite Knolls paid for by the Town Board.
- Question from Commissioner Patrick Comiskey "Does the Revenue Projection include Tennis Court Replacement Fees and has it been set up yet?" Superintendent Martorano answers "The Budget has been passed and there is no room for that."
- Fence Post completed. A higher gauge, bigger diameter, taller fence and a middle pole done by DeRosa. Great job done them. He made some changes to the drainage and will put in expansion joints will save the court from cracking.
- Turf Fund and Trust Agency is up to \$141,376.00 and Turf Replacement is up to \$396,070.00 when all is said and done.
- Reminder to the clubs the rental fee for turf will be going up \$5.00 to \$60.00 an hour.
- Kevin from Cross Court regarding Downing Pickleball Project. He is not concerned about the New Indoor Pickleball Courts in Town. Will need to speak with the Town Attorney to crunch numbers. Should work on getting an Engineering report from Joe Riina.

CLUB LIAISON REPORT:

- **Dan Kelley:** Doing Billing for November. We need to get familiar with the new Field Request Program
- **Lynn Withers:** Memorial Day opening for Reclaimed Pickleball Court. Fees stay the same because of shorter time of season.
- **Jane Daniels:** Sylvan Glenn Site Visits as needed. Neighbors will oppose the Alienation and Land Swap. There has been no appraisal.

TOWN BOARD LIAISON REPORT:

- **Councilwoman Susan Siegel:** RSP 2 Senior Development does not have a recreation fee and AMS is coming in for rezoning under RSP 2 (Contractors Register)

Chairperson Matthew Talbert discusses a visit with Westchester Modular for Senior Center / Recreation Office and received a quote for \$285.00 per square foot without foundation. Very expansive. Box Module \$870,000.00 for a trailer.

SENSORY GARDEN:

Superintendent Martorano: Committee created for the Sensory Garden as follows: Joe Falcone, Tom Dunn, Anna Mandara, Donna Diana and Town Clerk, Diana Quast as well as Superintendent Martorano. Diane Dreier Co-Chair of The Yorktown Conservation Board and Garden Club created a rendering of the Sensory Garden. The challenge in the Sensory Garden is to figure out what material to use for the pathway, irrigation, plantings, fencing for garden and possible fencing for splashpad. There is a \$350,000.00 Grant from Senator Harkham will not cover project. Quote on the features of the Splashpad is around \$80,000.00 not including the Safety pad, foundation and install. All in on the splashpad around \$200,000.00 Project. Cannot quote a price on the Sensory Garden as of yet need to know more about the features needed.

Happy with plan from Diane Dreier, but definitely have concerns with maintenance of the Splashpad. Money coming from a contributor of \$130,000.00 still bringing us short on the splashpad for \$20,000.00. Spoke to Superintendent from Tarrytown who has a splashpad to understand the cost to run it during the summer months and it costs \$7,500.00 a month in water costs. Talking about recycling water to water the Sensory Garden, Joe Rinna, PC estimates \$15,000.00 - \$20,000.00 or run piping across park and pump water to other areas of the park would cost \$25,000.00 - \$30,000.00.

Commissioner Pat Comiskey states he loves the idea but is concerned with the maintenance of this project and the strain on the Parks employees.

Chairperson Matthew Talbert states he is curious where the money is coming from. Commissioner Tom Dunn agrees he would like for more information on the project be shared and invites Town Clerk Diana Quast to take the floor.

Town Clerk Quast: Would like to get the project to get moving and needs a vote to begin. The Grant has a 3-year expiration date. It is important to understand that we can move forward and we have the funds to move forward.

Commissioner Pat Comiskey states that they have been talking about the project for a while and suggests picking a direction to go.

Chairperson Matthew Talbert would like more information on the splashpad as far as cost and maintenance. He states that Commissioner Christine Dunn feels that the splashpad is not inclusive to all as motorized wheelchairs would not be able to utilize.

Town Clerk Quast replies that is a question to ask, so maybe we get the Sensory Garden started and revisit and ask more questions later.

Chairperson Matthew Talbert states, I have never been against the Sensory Garden, just the original size of it. This one is way more manageable. I assume it will be managed by the Parks Department and not volunteers?

Town Clerk Quast replies you will have some but we will make it as manageable as we can. Sensory Garden will be where we start.

Commissioner Patrick Comiskey asks if the Sensory Garden can be built with volunteers or are we contracting all of this.

Town Clerk Quast replies the benefactor for the whole thing will be contracted out and will be taken care of and as far as she knows it will not cost the Town anything with regards to building. There will be maintenance. Maybe request later that an employee be stationed solely at the park for maintenance purposes.

Commissioner Tom Dunn asks how long project will take start to finish.

Town Clerk Quast replies, depends on when the Commissioner decides we can move forward on the project. I would like to see the whole thing done in 6 months but depends on conditions and other factors.

Superintendent Martorano states Irrigation and pathway is the two biggest structures in that space, if you build that the Sensory Garden can follow.

Vice Chairperson John Campobasso loves the idea of everything his question is can this be one project the that Town commits to finishing and protecting from being destroyed. Also, what happens with the shortfall of the money?

Town Clerk Quast asks can we get a consensus on moving forward on the splashpad?

Chairperson Matthew Talbert states he hesitates to do that because one of the Commissioners is not present who is directly affected by this. Also, Chairperson Talbert states he is nervous about the angel donor, because I don't know who he is and what are we giving up to get this money to complete this project?

Town Clerk states that the donor prefers to stay anonymous for now. He owns a construction company and knows the plan and is committed up to \$200,000.00.

Commissioner Pat Comiskey states we need a vote to start the Garden we need momentum.

Vice Chairperson Matthew Talbert would like to hear from the Town Board on how the water bills we be paid and if that money will be added to the Parks Budget. I really believe we need to figure out real costs, I am not opposed to the sensory garden but without a means to maintain it what are we voting on.

Diego Jaramillo makes motion for the Sensory Garden with water due diligence to include large and small cistern. Seconded by Commissioner Patrick Comiskey. All in Favor. Motion Passes.

Grant money used to pay Joe Riina to start the project because the money needs to start being used.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Polar Bear Plunge January 11th 2025
- New Employee James Torre to start December 16th 2024
- Par 3 hired Joe Riina to do a sewer connect. Possible Beaver issue in the stream. They need to get the underage drinking under control.

Motion to adjourn at 9:42 PM.

