

Yorktown Recreation Commission  
Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022  
Sparkle Lake Building

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Matthew Talbert, Vice Chairperson Patrick Cumiskey, John Campobasso, Thomas Dunn, Diego Jaramillo, Christine Dunn

Also Present: James Martorano Jr., Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; Daniel Walczewski, Asst. Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; Luciana Haughwout, Town Board Liaison; Matthew Slater, Town Supervisor

Not Present: Commissioner Joe Falcone

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Talbert at 7:02pm

Approval of February 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes: **Commissioner Thomas Dunn makes a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. All Commissioners present voted for the motion. Motion passes. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey was not present for the vote.**

Town Board Liaison/Town Supervisors Report:

Town Supervisor Slater updates the Commission on the following:

- Bus bid for camps out
- Bid for Railroad Park courts are out - back end of march
- Fence parts for Granite Knolls inclusive playground ordered. Note the money did not come from the Parks department, the money came from general fund.

Town Supervisor informs the Commission that the Town Board passed legislation to permit the sale and consumption of alcohol in specific parks, including Railroad Park, Par 3 golf course, Downing Park and Sparkle Lake Building. Railroad Park and Par 3 golf course will be allowed sale and consumption of alcohol once permit is approved by the Town Clerk and Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

Downing Park and Sparkle Lake Building renters can apply for an alcohol consumption only permit. Permit fee still to be determined. Town Board Liaison Haughwout suggests a permit fee and a security deposit.

Superintendent Martorano suggests the alcohol permit fee discussion to be put on the agenda for next meeting

- Allows for new event opportunities for the Town.
- San Genaro feast can now apply for a permit to sell alcohol in Railroad Park.

Sultana Ridge Pool: Is not Town property, property owned by a homeowners association that owes the Town \$10,000 in back-taxes. Property is currently not being managed and is a safety hazard. Town does not own property and will not own in the future. Put out to RFP to see if people have ideas on what to do with the property.

Cell Tower proposal at Hill Blvd: Proposed area is on Park property and would require park alienation if the Town decides to move forward. Currently doing exploration now.

Commissioner Campobasso expressed interest in having a discussion regarding the fence at Granite Knolls field and inclusive playground. Town Supervisor Slater informs the Commission that the Town Board will not be paying for extra net on the field.

Commissioner Christine Dunn updates the Town Supervisor and Town Board Liaison on the information gathered by Commissioner Christine Dunn and Commissioner Jaramillo to help Superintendent Martorano regarding the budget and identify areas in the department that may be deficient or areas of opportunity. Commissioner Christine Dunn expresses interest in having a meeting with the Town Supervisor and Town Board Liaison to discuss in further detail.

Town Supervisor and Town Board Liaison excuse themselves from the meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission on Spring/Summer Brochure updates, such as changes to the pool and camp rates following a meeting with Commissioner Christine Dunn and Chairperson Talbert.

Superintendent Martorano updates the Commission on the newest senior flier and senior offerings. He notes that the community center is still not open to the public and is only accepting specific programs, meaning a Parks and Recreation staff member, often himself, must let participants into the building. Programs would be self-sufficient if the doors were unlocked, many programs were historically self-sufficient in that building prior to the COVID19 pandemic.

Vice Chairperson Patrick Cumiskey joins the meeting.

Superintendent Martorano updates the Commission on the following Parks Dept. projects:

- Cleaned and organized the shop
- Storage containers moved
- All camp supplies have been completely cleaned out and in new bins
- Painted the lifeguard room at Junior Lake pool
- Moved and installed mulch at Railroad Park playground and Junior playground to be done soon
- Replaced playground bridge structure at Downing Park
- Rebuilt the water fountain at Downing Park
- New drainage at Railroad Park courts
- Removing dead trees from dog park
- Installed a new chain link fence at wading pool at Junior Lake pool
- Installing new post and rail at Junior Lake pool near pump house
- Removed blacktop from upper 202 field lot and put down item 4. Eventually looking to repave
- Pruned trees at Legacy

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission on upcoming Parks projects including:

- Putting nets up at Granite Knolls
- Running new CO2 lines at both Shrub Oak and Junior Lake pools
- Removing dead tree from Railroad Park- permission from Tree Commission
- Installing new post and rail at 202 field
- Installing bench at YCC track
- Finish fencing at Ivy Knolls playground
- Prep for soccer tournament

Solar Plan Update:

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey provides updated information regarding the solar plan at Granite Knolls Park. The way the contract is written between the Town and HESP Solar states the construction schedule cannot reasonably interfere with the operation of the facility.

- It would have been preferred that the wording be much clearer that construction can only occur from December to March.

If construction will be occurring while the facility is active, there must be a real staging plan. The next presentation by HESP Solar to the Planning Board will be on March 14, 2022.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission that camps/pools will be opening with no COVID related restrictions at this time. Any limitations would be due to staffing. Applications are starting to come in but won't have a solid idea until closer to the season. Pay rates changes are being made with the plan to have the lowest pay rate at minimum wage by 2024.

Superintendent Martorano shows the Commission the paid sponsorships that were put into the brochure inner front and back covers. These sponsorships funded an additional 2 pages.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission the 2023 budget planning doesn't begin until June/July 2022.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission that there are renderings for a new office for the Parks and Recreation department.

#### Chair's Report:

Chairperson Talbert informs the Commission on the budget work Commissioners Jaramillo and Christine Dunn have done over the past 3 months. Commissioners Jaramillo and Christine Dunn created a comprehensive plan to close the deficits to accomplish the goal of meeting the minimum wage a reality for seasonal camp and pool staff.

- Step system for now
- Will present to Town Supervisor and Town Board Liaison Haughwout

Chairperson Talbert informs the Commission on work being done at the Sylvan Glen Dog Park. Many dead trees and saplings removed to make the park safer. Noticed many dead tree branches in the canopy that could be hazardous and probably should be removed, but not enough funds in the grounds maintenance line to complete currently. Chairperson Talbert asks the Commission if there is any interest in funding this work.

- Vice Chairperson Cumiskey and Commissioner Campobasso agree that such a situation would fall under "implied liability", and suggested a conversation be had on this with the Town Attorney.
- Commissioner Jaramillo suggests getting a quote on how much the work would cost
- Commissioner Christine Dunn suggests a maintenance list should be created in order to prioritize projects and fund allocations.
- No decision made to move forward with this project.

Tennis/Pickleball Pass revenue split: Superintendent Martorano clarifies that the Tennis/Pickleball replacement fund will not be a separate fund, but rather a subcategory of the turf replacement fund.

Superintendent Martorano updates the Commission on the status on selling fence banners:

- Sent out to the Small Business Association and Chamber of Commerce and haven't heard anything regarding interest in either the fence banners or the brochure advertisements.
- Plans to make calls to gain advertisements for the fence banners.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission on the pricing for additional pages in the brochure: \$1300 for 4 pages with the printer. Selling sponsorships as follows: \$250 for quarter page, \$450 for half page, \$850 for full.

Superintendent Martorano reassures the Commission that they will have to approve all fence banner designs and will send the packet out to Commission tomorrow via email.

Liaison Reports:

Lynn Withers: Pickleball

- Shed fixed at Granite Knolls
- Nets up around mid-March
- Superintendent Martorano responds to Lynn's question: there will have to be a separate conversation at another time regarding the replacement or repair of the fencing around the courts.
- Plans to release part of the windscreens on bad windy days to let some wind through so the fencing doesn't get further damage

Pickleball Tournament: raising money for lights for the courts

- Vice Chairperson Cumiskey questioned the potential impact of having the tournaments with the all-purpose and possibly baseball fields being used so heavily on the weekends. Superintendent Martorano, Lynn and Chairperson Talbert reassure Vice Chairperson Cumiskey that the tournament will not affect parking too badly
- Saturday attendant will be able to monitor bathrooms - already included in the budget
- Open to all ages and levels
- All money raised goes to the Friends of Yorktown Parks and Recreation to fund for lights for Pickleball courts - have only gotten 2 quotes for materials only, \$10,000 and \$20,000, and are working on getting a final pricing in order to set a funding goal.
- Credit card/coin operated lights with set time parameters to be determined.

The Commission requests that the fee the public pays will cover the lighting operation costs

- Will know the exact usage

Lynn presents a Saturday morning league to the Commission which is a slight variation from the presentation from the February, 2022 meeting that was voted down by the Commission.

- Use half the courts for leagues and other half is open play

**Commissioner Christine Dunn makes a motion for a Pickleball league to be held on Saturday mornings from 7:30-9:30 am using 3 courts to be run through Parks and Recreation and open to anyone to register on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Jaramillo seconds with the caveat that the 3 open courts are not blocked for other players. Commissioner Christine Dunn, Commissioner Thomas Dunn and Commissioner Jaramillo vote for the motion. Commissioner John Campobasso, Vice Chairperson Cumiskey and Chairperson Talbert vote against the motion. Motion does not pass.**

Bob Giordano: Friends of Yorktown Parks and Recreation

- Group has purchased a flier in the Spring/Summer brochure
- Updates on upcoming events: Hole-in-One, Polar Bear Plunge

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission on the putting together of an Ultimate Frisbee hat tournament to fundraise a scholarship for high school kids with most school spirit in honor of a friend who passed away from cancer. Would take any advice for putting together a scholarship.

- High School juniors/seniors going into the SUNY system, GPA, essay on why they have the most school spirit, household income
- Bench donation for Veterans park and interest in building a Women veterans peace garden

Al French: YYSC

- Starting to get schedules together for Spring
- March dates scheduled already
- Waiting to use Hunterbrook until grass comes in

Superintendent Martorano mentions fencing for Hunterbrook upper field.  
Commissioner Campobasso states final schedules should be submitted by 4/15.  
Chairperson Talbert states finalizing times is in order to make sure no one is blocking field time.

Tom Regan: YAC

- Asks for clarity on the schedule for Adult Soccer. Superintendent Martorano responds: Mondays may not work, Wednesdays start at 9:00, Fridays start 8:30
- Would like to set a date for the ribbon cutting for new bleachers
- Suggests to the Commission to add a sign at Legacy showing where the bathrooms are.

#### New Business:

Commissioner Campobasso discusses a loophole regarding partnerships between parks and recreation and businesses with a 70/30 split giving outside clubs preference over the sponsored clubs for field times.

- Superintendent Martorano clarifies that organizations pay the grass field hourly rate for the school field, parks and recreation pays the janitor fee the school asks for
- IMA for the school districts to use the park fields for free
- Commission would like to request to make an amendment to the Parks and Recreation contracted/partnership programming registration document. To discuss further next meeting and vote in amendments.

Chairperson Talbert inquired about attaching a spreadsheet to the field form. Superintendent Martorano plans to discuss with the Senior Recreation Leader.

Al French inquired regarding summer scheduling and why there is time blocked on certain fields. Superintendent Martorano explains time may be blocked for internal programming use and elaborates on how the internal programming works and expresses that Parks and Recreation does not push town sponsored clubs off the fields.

#### Old Business:

Commissioner Christine Dunn and Chairperson Talbert inform Vice Chairperson Cumiskey the list of old business is on the Google drive.

#### Inclusive Playground Updates:

Chairperson Talbert and Superintendent Martorano updates the Commission on the following regarding the inclusive playground perimeter barrier. The Commission voted for 2 conditions on June 21<sup>st</sup>: 1. Picket Fence around playground 2. Field nets to be fixed. The current plans include planters along with the fence.

The Commission discusses concerns with the new plans and agrees to compose a memorandum to the Town Board to express those concerns including the original resolution highlighting the clause indicating the current problem of the Town Board overstepping the Commission, and asking to be included in an upcoming work session to discuss this ongoing issue.

Chairperson Talbert indicated that the Town Board will not pay to raise the fence on the fields, so Parks and Recreation must be prepared to close the playground while the nets are down from November to March in the interest of safety.

The Commission would like to get a quote for the new field fence/net from someone within Source Well.

Town Sponsored Club Document:

Chairperson Talbert has distributed a document asking for comments for the definition of a Town Sponsored Club. Several comments were received via email, but Commissioner Christine Dunn asks to include some additional updates to the Town Sponsored Club document. The updates were discussed, with several being incorporated into the latest revision.

**Chairperson Talbert makes a motion to make this document a live document following all edits. The document will be the official definition of a Town Sponsored Club and any additional edits must be approved by the Commission. All present Commissioners vote for the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

Internet Installation:

Superintendent Martorano requests funds from the Commission to begin installing internet at Shrub Oak Pool and Legacy Field.

**Vice Chairperson Cumiskey makes a motion to provide the Superintendent with up to \$7,000 to begin the internet installation project with the condition of the Town Board paying the monthly fees. All present Commissioners voted for the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Vice Chairperson Cumsikey makes a motion for the Commission to allocate up to \$40,000 towards ordering a new fence at Granite Knolls Park from GK Field 1 to end of the pavilion. All present Commissioners vote for the motion. Motion passes unanimously.**

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey makes a motion to close at 10:20 pm.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:20 pm.