

Yorktown Recreation Commission
Thursday April 7th, 2022
Town Hall

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

Also Present: James Martorano Jr., Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; Daniel Walczewski, Asst. Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; Tom Diana, filling in for Town Board Liaison

Chairperson Talbert calls the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Approval of the March Meeting Minutes tabled to next meeting.

Superintendents Report:

Superintendent Martorano provides the Commission updates on the following:

- Golf Course - planning board April 11, planned partial opening for July 4.
- Easter Egg Hunt on April 9th with rain date of April 16 - PD has been notified
- Camp registration updates - staff updates
- Parks Department projects: bench at DeVito field, working on clay on ball fields, fencing at Junior Pool, satellite internet at Shrub Oak Park and Legacy, field and court nets are up, windscreens going up, bathrooms open at Legacy, plumbing issues at Granite Knolls delaying the bathroom opening.
- Banner sales: email blast. Still need the example banner
- Sylvan Glen Dog Park: needs to ask legal about implied liability at the dog park regarding the trees in the canopy
- Camp staff update for May meeting
- Pool staffing - not in red zone but could use more

Commission would like clarification on what Trust and Agency can be used for.

Superintendent Martorano and the Commission discuss Soundview.

Superintendent Martorano and the Commission discuss the 12 pocket parks to be replaced or reimaged over the next 10 years.

Tom Diana filling in for Town Board Liaison Report:

Tom Diana updates the Commission on the bus bids, basketball court bid, and the playground construction at Granite Knolls.

Tom Diana and the Commission agree there needs to be a discussion regarding the alcohol permit fee and possibly expanding the permit to Veterans field as well.

Tom Diana and the Commission agree there needs to be a discussion regarding the overtime budget with all departments.

Chairs Report:

Chairperson Talbert updates the Commission on the new ball field machine and Hanover East.

Event Proposal "Family Fun Day": Yorktown for Justice:

Proposed Date: May 22 at Granite Knolls: celebrate National Mental Health day and fundraising for the sensory garden. Proposed Time: 1-5 pm. Numbers: under 100
Vendors: no formal agenda until location confirmed. No admissions or charge for events: just a donation booth. Yorktown for Justice will give money to the rotary for use in benches and sensory garden at Granite Knolls.

Chairperson Talbert makes note that the event will need to be carry in/carry out and Yorktown for Justice will need to clean the area after event.

Yorktown for Justices requests the Commission to either waive or reduce the pavilion rental fee. Tom Diana suggests a fee waiver.

Commissioner Campobasso makes a motion to suggest the Town Board to waive the fee for the Granite Knolls Pavilion for whatever date they choose. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey seconds the motion. Chairperson Talbert, Commissioner Campobasso, Commissioner Falcone, Commissioner Christine Dunn and Commissioner Thomas Dunn vote for the motion. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey votes against the motion. Motion passes.

Granite Knolls Solar Update:

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey updates the Commission on the HESP Solar Project.

The Commission discusses water runoff and erosion issues.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey updates the Commission on the proposed project schedule.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey would like the Town Board's support in clarifying the construction schedule with HESP to include a set timeframe of November to March. The Planning Board stated the schedule is not within their purview. The public hearing is scheduled for April 25th.

Chairperson Talbert will officially ask for a Special Meeting with Town Board, Commission and Planning Board to discuss the solar plan and schedule before the April 25 public hearing.

Parking Lot Agreement with Yorktown Central School District:

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey makes a motion to recommend to the Town Board to enter an agreement with the Yorktown Central School District (YCSD) to enforce school policies at the Rt. 202 field upper parking lot during school hours with the request that the YCSD to additionally be responsible for special events, cleaning garbage accumulated and that the lot will not be for the exclusive use of the Yorktown Central School District. Commissioner Jaramillo seconds. All in favor. Motion passes.

Liaison Reports:

Jane Daniels and Ken Belfer:

- Tall Timber construction underway, would like to plan a ribbon cutting event

Mohegan Lake Day: July 16 with a rain date of July 17.

Superintendent Martorano approved the names of 3 trails: Jones Hill Trail, Water Tower Trail, Evergreen Trail.

Vice Chairperson Cumsiskey suggests opening the trail before trying to make any adjustments to the trail.

Tom Diana, Superintendent Martorano and Jane Daniels discuss naming a trail system for Veterans Purple Heart.

Tom: YAC:

Bleacher ribbon cutting event

Dan Kelly: SOAC

Vice Chairperson read email update regarding the tournament that occurred.

Public Comment:

Christine: son plays for Westchester Elite. Requests clarification on the field rental rates and why Westchester Elite is charged a nonresident rate when the roster is mostly Yorktown residents.

The Commission and Superintendent Martorano inform Christine on the rental policies and rate structure.

New Business:

Commissioner Thomas Dunn proposes a new event called Fam Jam to be held on April 30th at Railroad Park organized by a local group of people and partnered with Bob and the Friends of Yorktown Parks and Recreation. Event will have live music and food trucks.

The event will fundraise for local charities and proceeds will go back into the community, some examples given; Good Samaritan fund with St. Patricks, My Brother Vinny.

The organizers of Fam Jam request for the \$2400.00 combined recreation special event fee, stage fee and overtime fee to be waived.

Chairperson Talbert makes a motion for a one time, one year waive of half of the overall recreation fee for the Fam Jam event. Commissioner Christine Dunn seconds the motion. Commissioner Christine Dunn, Chairperson Talbert, Commissioner Jaramillo and Commissioner Falcone vote for the motion. Commissioner Thomas Dunn and Commissioner Campobasso abstain from the vote. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey votes against the motion. Motion passes.

The Commission agrees there needs to be definitions in place for fee waivers in the future.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey makes a motion to grant Al Avitabile, former Chairperson of the Commission, the title of Commissioner Emeritus. Commissioner Falcone seconds the motion. All Commissioner vote for the motion. Motion passes.

Commissioner Jaramillo makes a motion to waive the \$100 Downing Park Pavilion rental fee for a George Washington Elementary School PTA event. Chairperson Talbert seconds the motion. Commissioner Thomas Dunn, Commissioner Falcone, Commissioner Jaramillo and Chairperson Talbert vote for the motion. Commissioner Christine Dunn and Commissioner Campobasso vote against the motion. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey abstains from the vote. Motion passes.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey mentions the path to bleachers at Granite Knolls is flooded/muddy.

Chairperson Talbert asks Commission about using some of the \$70,000 allocated funds from Trust & Agency going towards the basketball courts for stump removal. The Commission agrees it is all within the budget.

Chairperson Talbert recommends putting 2 more light towers, 20 ft high, to cover the playground for security camera coverage with an estimated cost of \$10,000.

Chairperson Talbert makes a motion to contribute up to \$8,000 to purchase lights for the sensory garden and the playground while negotiating with Town Board to cover the costs. Commissioner Jaramillo seconds. Chairperson Talbert, Vice Chairperson Cumiskey, Commissioner Jaramillo, Commissioner Christine Dunn, Commissioner Thomas Dunn and Commissioner Falcone vote for the motion. Commissioner Campobasso votes against the motion. Motion passes.

Tom Diana suggests a Fourth of July fireworks show probably at Veterans Field.

Tom Diana would like to donate a flagpole to Shrub Oak Park near the baseball field.

Motion to close at 10:45 pm.