

Yorktown Recreation Commission
Thursday, April 6th 2023
Town Hall Board Room

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Matt Talbert, Vice Chairperson Patrick Cumiskey, Commissioner Joe Falcone, Commissioner Thomas Dunn, Commissioner Christine Dunn

Also Present: James Martorano Jr, Superintendent of Recreation; Marissa Lieto, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation

Chairperson Talbert called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Approval of the March 2nd, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey makes a motion to postpone voting on the minutes until edits can be made. Chairperson Talbert seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Garden Club Presentation:

Lina Lobo, Gerry Boniello and Renee Fogarty of the Garden Club present to the Commission. The Garden Club presentation included the following topics: invasives species around Junior Lake such as barberry, porcelain berry, wine berry, multiflora rose, oriental bittersweet vines; landscape management and education to public on healthy yards.

The Garden Club expresses interest in a partnership with the Town to support current efforts and host an invasive species removal project at Junior Lake. It is confirmed that hand-removal of invasive species within the lake does not require any DEC permits.

The Garden Club and the Commission also discussed the hanging flower baskets along the roadways in Town. The Commission asked about potentially switching to artificial flowers as the watering of the baskets have become a drain on the limited Parks staff/equipment availability. The Garden Club would like to return to the next Commission meeting with alternatives after discussing with more members.

Women's Veterans Garden: Bob Giordano, Friends of Yorktown Parks and Recreation

Bob Giordano stated to the Commission that he has been in contact with Ann from the Garden Club regarding the addition of a Women's Veterans Garden.

- 10x10 or 20x20 space with bench and bronze marker
- Location options: Jack DeVito Gazebo or Patriot Park

Food Truck Proposal for Westchester Elite Soccer Club:

Superintendent Martorano shares a request from Westchester Elite Soccer Club to park a food truck at Legacy Field during, and as a condition of their field rental time.

Commissioner Christine Dunn makes a motion to allow Westchester Elite Soccer Club to park their food truck in their designated location as coordinated with the Parks and Recreation Superintendent in conjunction with their field rentals times for the 2023 season. Commissioner Joe Falcone seconds the motion. All present vote in favor of the motion. Motion passes.

The Commission discusses the current rules regarding food trucks in the parks and expresses interest in updating the rules at a future time.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Martorano provides an update to the Commission on the following:

- May 20th Car Show moved to JV Mall
- Baseball fields done, soccer fields done, mulched playgrounds, pruned the parks, tennis and pickleball nets are up, windscreens should be done soon, GK and Legacy water on, completely cleaned Legacy turf, first base replacement, outfield fence repair, shrub oak park flag pole
- Waitlist for camps - short staffed on counselors. Moving campers off waitlist as counselors are being hired. The Commission discussed how the low counselor pay rates have had a negative impact by reducing willing staff and reducing number of campers allowed resulting in revenue loss.
- Embridge: Superintendent Martorano shared a list of serious department needs with the Town Supervisor such as a new dump truck, replacement/repair of pool tile, shrub oak park undermined walkway, engine for the 5910 mower, Junior Lake pool chlorine tank removal and replacement, GK pickleball courts and basketball court repairs, various pocket park playground repairs, Sparkle Lake service building door replacement.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey recommends having budget meetings for the Commission to go through budget together.

- Sourcewell - Musco will only allow Sourcewell lights at 202. Superintendent Martorano expresses he needs an answer whether they can or cannot use Sourcewell to replace these lights or it will need to go out to bid.

The Commission suggests sending monthly emails to Town Board, Town Supervisor and Comptroller with necessary significant repairs and maintenance so as to take away the "I didn't know about it." statements that have repeatedly been made for multiple administrations.

Liaison Reports:

Lynne Withers, Pickleball:

Lynne Withers reports to the Commission that the latch of the fence is not working properly and reiterates that the pickleball fencing is loose and needs repairs.

The Commission holds discussion on the status of multiple painted courts.

Dan Kelly, SOAC:

Dan Kelly provides the Commission updates on the reopened volleyball program. 150 participants signed up.

Dan Kelly informs the Commission that the Ice Breaker Tournament was cancelled due to inclement weather and would like to push it to first weekend following March 20th next year.

The Commission states it will vote on it next month.

Bob Giordano, Friends of Yorktown Parks and Recreation:

Bob Giordano updates the Commission on upcoming events such as the Ryan West Ultimate Frisbee Tournament the first weekend of June and Fam Jam on April 28-29th.

Par 3 Update/Valley Fields Golf Course:

Chairperson Talbert provides the Commission an update on the status of the Valley Fields golf course. The Commission would like to know if the site plan has been approved by the Planning Board.

New Business:

The Commission agrees to collect action items for each commission member throughout the meeting to be reviewed at the conclusion of the meeting and to be distributed to each member.

Superintendent Martorano states he is starting an ultimate frisbee club and currently working towards gaining approval with the Lakeland School District to distribute advertisements to the students.

Old Business:

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey provides the Commission an update on the HESP solar project. Currently still waiting on a DEP permit to begin work. There is a scheduled meeting with the contractors on April 18th at 5pm to review logistical concerns with transition periods and deliveries.

Legacy Field:

The Commission reviewed the letter submitted letter from Enbridge as to the status of the geological conditions based on the testing completed after the Christmas Eve sink hole event. The Commission agrees that the submitted letter was not sufficient and should not have been approved by the Town based on the previous agreement stating the letter must include a statement of 'safe and stable' upon reopening the park.

The Commission recommends to Superintendent Martorano to temporarily fence off the grassy area and/or stop mowing to make a natural barrier from anyone driving/playing along the gas line right of way.

Commissioner Tom Dunn provides the Commission with a brief update on the sensory garden and grant application following a conversation held with Anna.

The Commission agrees to invite Anna to a meeting in order to present the current status of the sensory garden and grant.

Commissioner Joe Falcone states a plan should be put together for Willow Park to be made into a wiffle ball field.

Superintendent Martorano provides the Commission the following staff updates:

Hired a Recreation Assistant, Michael Gould. Senior Office Assistant, Kim Hughes. Jessica Bambach is staying on part-time until September.

Commissioner Christine Dunn notes this is the time to document procedures for the Senior Office Assistant position.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission he is learning the procedure necessary to utilize the tree fund for new plantings.

Chairperson Talbert reiterates that the repair needs of the Town's pool facilities presented at last month's Commission meeting has been shared with the Town Supervisor.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey reads through action item list.

Commissioner Joe Falcone makes a motion to close. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:37 pm.