

Yorktown Recreation Commission  
Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Sparkle Lake Service Building

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Matt Talbert, Vice Chairperson Patrick Cumiskey (late arrival), Commissioner Diego Jaramillo, Commissioner Joe Falcone, Commissioner Christine Dunn, Commissioner John Campobasso

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

Absent: Commissioner Thomas Dunn; Luciana Haughwout, Town Board Liaison

Chairperson Talbert called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

Approval of the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting Minutes: **Commissioner Jaramillo makes a motion to approve the November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting minutes. Commissioner Campobasso seconds. All Commissioners present vote in favor of the motion. Motion passes.** Note Vice Chair Cumiskey was not present for this vote.

Garden of Hope Grant: Sarah Wilson

Sarah Wilson informs the Commission that an application has been completed and submitted for an urban farms and community farms grant that could award up to \$50,000 with Town matching 10% (up to \$5,000) to fund the creation of an access road for the Garden of Hope to be used for material drops only.

(Vice Chair Cumiskey joins the meeting at 7:10pm)

Superintendent Martorano clarifies that the access road would be for material drop off only, with a size of about 60x10 costing approximately \$40,000 which would not impede upon the baseball field. If grant is awarded, approval would need to be obtained from the Highway Department and DEC for the project to progress.

**Vice Chair Cumiskey makes a motion to allow the Garden of Hope access road project to proceed subject to obtaining any and all required regulatory permits and work being in full compliance therewith, and the grant being awarded. All Commissioners vote in favor of the motion. Motion passes.**

Grass Field Overtime Supplemental Fee:

Commissioner Christine Dunn provides the Commission an update on grass field rates. At Town Supervisor Diana's request, Senior Rec Leader Peterson created a spreadsheet projecting possible revenue by charging for grass fields at various rates based upon field time reserved in previous years. The Town Supervisor wanted to investigate further and Commissioner Christine Dunn was asked to join a meeting and review the spreadsheet created. Commissioner Christine Dunn explains she has not completed the audit, but currently does not believe the projected numbers are accurate.

Vice Chair Cumiskey reminded the Commission that the discussion on charging for use of the grass fields was previously before the Commission, and a vote was taken voting down the additional fees. The Commission holds a discussion and agrees to table the topic until Commissioner Christine Dunn completes her audit.

Public Comment regarding grass fields: Rick Romanski states that clubs should be held accountable for field hours reserved and not used.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Martorano updates the Commission on the following:

- Holiday Lights Parade Recap - had a post-parade meeting today to discuss any minor issues this year's parade presented. Another follow-up meeting coming up. Vice Chair Cumiskey suggested an additional road closure for the Kear St. intersection would be a great add to what was done this year, as there were a multitude of vehicles that had to turn around in the Shell gas station parking lot. Notices to the businesses on Underhill Ave to make sure their patrons exit towards Rt. 202 only after 3pm would also be beneficial.
- Bizzy Girls program Recap – new entrepreneur program had its final class in the form of a pop-up store where the participants got to sell their products they created during the program. Another session is scheduled in Winter.
- Shrub Oak Pool coping: Following research, the PVC lining with prorated warranty appears to be the best option. The Department still needs a third quote from a third aquatics engineer.
- New York Presbyterian reached out interested in donating a playground bench. The Commission has no objections and recommends the donated bench match the other park benches in color (green).
- Patriot Skate Park: the third phase of skate park repairs starts Monday, 12/11, weather depending. The Park will be closed starting December 11 and likely remain closed until March.
- 3rd Annual Polar Bear Plunge will be Saturday January 6th at 9 am. This year, the Friends of YPR will be allowing clubs and organizations to fundraise for their own organizations at the event with the Friends of YPR taking a small percentage.
- Winter programming starting soon with a large social media push throughout December to boost enrollment for the January programs.
- Pool and Camp rates need to be voted on by next month (January)

#### Chair's Report:

Chairperson Talbert provides the Commission with an update on the Legacy Field turf replacement. The old turf has been pulled up and field is laser graded, new turf has gone out to production. Currently on schedule to be complete by April 1.

#### Updated on Granite Knolls Solar Canopy:

Vice Chair Cumiskey provides the Commission an update on the HESP solar project. Vice Chair Cumiskey clarifies to the Commission that the contract with HESP has specific stipulations that need to be adhered to, and only some of the terms are currently being revised due to the elimination of the ground arrays and battery storage areas. Vice Chair Cumiskey explains the schedule remains the Commission's biggest concern, and has now changed from 218 to 114 days duration and will likely not be complete until June based on a January 7, 2024 start date. The Commission and the Town Supervisor have made HESP keenly aware that as of April 1, 2024 the facility will need to reopen with no less than 75% of parking available, and a traffic control plan must be provided during any obstructed parking passed April 1, 2024 that will need to be updated as work progresses.

Vice Chair Cumiskey states the field renters could assist with ways to reduce traffic congestion during that time such as: spacing out rentals, drop off/pick up only, carpooling, and having someone direct parking at peak field turnover times.

Commissioner Jaramillo suggests a notification including information surrounding the project be sent out to all park and field users.

#### Public Comment:

Janet Muzzillo presents to the Commission the following: Decorate Willow Park fence with rustic remembrance ornaments from December 15th to approximately January 1st. Ms. Muzzillo and her volunteers would secure a container with markers, ornaments and zip ties at the fence for people to write the names of lost loved ones on the ornaments and hang on fence.

The Commission has no objections to the idea so long as the ties were plastic, the ornaments could not pose a safety hazard to anyone using the park, and that any debris would be cleaned up by the volunteers. Commissioner Falcone states he would be willing to check in on the fence as well.

Town Board Liaison Report: N/A

Liaison Report:

Al French, YYSC: Al French states the Google Docs schedule is working well, but has a concern regarding the field permit which does not have a spot to name a field.

Chairperson Talbert and Superintendent Martorano agree to discuss this concern further and clarify with Senior Rec Leader Peterson.

Chairperson Talbert clarifies that the field schedule deadline remains January 22<sup>nd</sup> for spring and summer and advises all clubs to proceed with normal field schedules and will revisit as both the Granite Knolls Solar and the Legacy Field Replacement projects progress.

Jane Daniels, NY/NJ Trail Conference: Jane Daniels informs the Commission that Mike McDonald will begin taking over communications with the Commission and Superintendent Martorano in the new year.

Jane Daniels updates the Commission on the following:

- Drainage at Sylvan Glen has been looked at
- Eagle Scouts projects are complete
- The ATV law previously drafted is back in revisions. Jane and Walt would like to discuss with the Chief of Police what the plan for enforcement is. The Commission reminded Jane and Walt that Chief Noble has already come out publicly and repeatedly that he will not have any officers chase ATV riders.

Jane Daniels distributes a Greenway trails application to the Commission and states they will be applying for the Greenway designation. The Commission asked for clarification if this designation would add any further liability and/or restrictions on the Town such as maintenance and/or what can be done with/to the trails, and Jane confirmed it would not.

Lynne Withers, Pickleball:

Lynne Withers thanks the Commission for their continued support. Lynne states they will continue to discuss the creation of the pickleball trust with the Town Board.

Old Business:

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission the RT 202 field lights have been delivered.

Superintendent Martorano confirms any park name changes with the Commission:

The Commission again raised concerns over the correct process in which the renaming of a designated Park may have to go through, and suggested it being discussed with the Town Attorney and possibly the Town Clerk. Subject to that:

The Commission agrees to no changes of Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Field & Track.

The Commission agrees to change the monument section of Patriot Park to Veterans Monument Park and have the skate park remain the same.

The Commission agrees to no changes to John H. Downing Park, as there has been no references found to this having the name "Veterans" or "Memorial" in it as described by the Veteran's Committee that appeared before the Commission last month.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission there are no updates regarding the Shrub Oak steam project. Vice Chair Cumiskey recommends Superintendent Martorano ask for the DEC permit application number in order to reach out to the DEC directly.

Motion to adjourn at 9:16 pm