

Yorktown Recreation Commission
Thursday, January 4th, 2024
Town Hall Board Room

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

Also Present: James Martorano Jr, Superintendent of Recreation; Luciana Haughwout, Town Board Liaison; Kim Hughes, Senior Office Assistant.

Absent: None

Chairperson Talbert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of the December 7th 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Christine Dunn recommends a change to the minutes amending the word Audit to Review. Commissioner Campobasso makes a motion to approve the December 7th meeting minutes with the change. Commissioner Tom Dunn seconds. All Commissioners present vote in favor of the motion. Motion passes.

Pool and Camp Rate 2024 Discussion was tabled for future meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Martorano updates the Commission on the following:

- Apar Field: Superintendent Martorano sent photos of the expanded parking lot.
- Chlorine Tank
- Shrub Oak Pool coping: Needs to be done before the walls cave in. Superintendent Martorano has reached out to all three Engineers
- 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 22nd 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