

Yorktown Recreation Commission
Thursday, April 4, 2024
Town Hall Board Room

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Matt Talbert, Vice Chairperson John Campobasso, Commissioner Patrick Cumsikey, Commissioner Joe Falcone, Commissioner Thomas Dunn

Also Present: Marissa Lieto, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, Kim Hughes, Senior Office Assistant, Councilperson Sergio Esposito, acting Town Board Liaison

Absent: Commissioner Diego Jaramillo, Commissioner Christine Dunn, James Martorano Jr, Superintendent of Recreation, Luciana Haughwout, Town Board Liaison

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

Approval of February 1st and March 7th 2024 Meeting Minutes: Motion made by Vice Chairperson John Campobasso second by Commissioner Joe Falcone. Commissioner Patrick Cumsikey abstained. All in favor, Motion passed.

Garden Club Revitalization of Patriot Park:

Garden Club Representative Elana Goren presented their 3-phase plan proposal to revitalize Patriot Park to representatives of the Veterans Advisory Council. The Garden Club believes the best way to honor Veterans in this site of Patriot Garden is to plant all American Native plants that reflect American resilience. The Veterans Advisory Council intervene to make note that it is not Patriot Garden. The VAC would like to discuss the Resolution that states the actual name of the park. The term Patriot is referring to First responders, Civil Air Patrols, all matter of Patriots. The Rec Commission urges the Veterans to focus on the Garden Clubs Presentation and discuss the name of the park during Old Business portion of the meeting.

Phase 1: removal of current plants from the park's main circle and plant native drought resistant plants and flowers.

Phase 2: replant along embankment with erosion control plants

Phase 3: remove invasions and plant native wildflowers in grassy area beyond circle and embankment.

The Garden Club applied for AARP grant that could fund the majority of the project.

The plan being to plant in Fall, with help from the Town to get water to the site during the first Spring season while plants are being established. Once plants are established, maintenance should be low.

The Garden Club would like to work with the Veterans to choose the plantings and educational signage or QR codes.

A maintenance plan is to be provided from the Garden Club in the future, and water availability to be resolved as well with James Martorano, Superintendent.

Veterans Advisory Committee:

Resolution was passed regarding the name of the Veteran Memorials Circle. If it will be called Patriots Circle then that changes the meaning and people it is honoring. The request is to refer to the location as it was written in the Resolution, and the signage to reflect that as well. The VAC also refers to incorrect signage at Jack DeVito Veteran Memorial Field and Track. Chairperson Matt Talbert requests that the VAC meet with the DeVito family to discuss any changes they would like to make.

Vice Chairperson John Campobasso makes a motion to change the name to The Veteran Memorials Circle (fka Patriot Park or Patriot Garden at Town Hall) Seconded by Commissioner Joe Falcone. All in Favor, Motion Passes. Memo will be sent to the Town Board.

Revitalization of Hunterbrook Baseball Field:

Possible funds to come with the Toll Brothers Catherine Street Project to revitalize the baseball field at Hunterbrook Park. To utilize the field as a grass field, parking is needed, that is the intent of the revitalization. There is no objection to moving forward with this plan.

Recreation fees for Development:

Councilperson Sergio Esposito speaks of a new law being crafted that is 99% done headed by Councilperson Luciana Haughwout. The idea is to have recreation fees and recreation fees that cannot be fully mitigated. Current draft legislation for \$7500 a door, if a property being used nearby for active recreation there will be a discount per door. There are some legalities they are going over. It will be completed soon.

Superintendent's Report:

Assistant Superintendent Lieto provides the Commission an update on the following:

- Parks worked on the break room. They installed shelves and fixed the ceiling. They fixed the retaining wall as well.
- Bumper blocks were put in at Granite Knolls Park overflow lot.
- Two additional gates at Granite Knolls Football Field and a gate at Legacy Field.
- Retrofitted anew shed for tools and equipment at the Parks Garage.
- New Trim Trailer
- Gravel Pad for the shed at Legacy Football
- In process of seeding baseball fields
- Water on at all Parks
- Minor leak at Legacy, fixed
- All pools will be drained with permissions in place
- Top-coated all playgrounds with mulch
- Willow Park Drainage done and new mulch
- Organized the shop
- Skate Park complete
- New Equipment, 3 trailers and a small mower

Rick Romansky would like to speak of an emergency at Granite Knolls Park. The goal at Granit Knolls broke while the kids were playing. Chairperson Matt Talbert requests that the

goal be taken down completely. The goal closest to the pickleball field. Assistant Superintendent Lieto will relay the message to the Parks Dept to remove the goal from the park.

- Postponing the tank replacement at Junior Lake. DEC and DOH have paperwork. They stated there is a 6-8 week turn around. That is not enough time before pool opening. They will revisit after this season.
- Registration started 3/19 for camps. Yorktown Full day filled within 60 seconds.
- On par with the amount of camp councilors we had last year.
- Pools all set, currently interviewing and hiring staff.
- Fishing Derby May 11th.
- General registration for programs is up as more and more people are joining rec programs, especially seniors. Need more space for programs.
- Trust and Agency Access.
- Capitol Improvement Plan status is being worked on.
- Skate park: someone went over the wet caulking.

Noted Assistant Superintendent Marissa Lieto gave an excellent report.

New Business:

- June meeting being moved to the 13th and the July meeting to encompass July and August on July 25th 2024.
- Site Visit to be done (walk Hunterbrook) when it is drier and dates will be sent out for that.
- Issue at Granite Knolls with the lights. A breaker blew. Hanover Electric fixed.
- Meeting with Town Supervisor and Town Comptroller to discuss budget.
- Commissioner Christine Dunn is working to ready the budget.

Old Business:

- Legacy Granite Knolls Fence Padding was authorized.
- Streambank stabilization starts May 1st 2024 being done in house.
- Pickleball bid is out. Prices coming in next week. Not in time for inground footings.

Shrub Oak Athletic Club:

- Issue with scheduling grass fields. The google sheet is not user friendly. Scheduling has been lost and this is a problem that has been brought to Deanna Peterson's attention.

Lynn Witherall:

- Pickleball and Tennis passes are selling well.
- Chairperson Matt Talbert states an email needs to go out stating the closing dates of the courts when they purchase a pass.
- Residents are complaining about parking by Granite Knolls. We need no parking signs.
- In conjunction to the renaming of Granite Knolls to Tom Diana Park, a tournament is being requested in our late Supervisors name August 10th 2024 possibly.

- Private entity to come in and give us another pickleball court and make revenue for the Town and the Recreation Dept. Lynn has taken them to different locations to find a good spot for an indoor-outdoor facility and will do all the paperwork as well. This is to be re-visited in the future.

Rick Romansky:

- Would like to make it known that he is having problems scheduling grass fields as well.

Fam Jam:

Commissioner Tom Dunn reports that they have given \$30,000 away in donations the last two years and this year they would like to donate to the Yorktown Teen Center. The Date is April 27th 2024. They support Yorktown High School sports teams as well.

Motion to close at 10:15 pm.

Meeting adjourned.