

Yorktown Recreation Commission
Thursday, June 13th 2024
Sparkle Lake Building

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Matt Talbert, Commissioner Christine Dunn, Commissioner Joe Falcone, Commissioner Thomas Dunn, Commissioner Patrick Cumsikey (Joins at 7:25pm), Vice Chairperson John Campobasso (Late arrival aprox. 8pm)

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

Absent: Commissioner Diego Jaramillo

Chairperson Talbert called the meeting to order at 7:23 pm.

Approval of the May 2nd Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Joe Falcone makes a motion to approve the May meeting minutes. Commissioner Tom Dunn seconds the motion. Chairperson Talbert, Commissioner Christine Dunn, Commissioner Joe Falcone, and Commissioner Tom Dunn vote in favor of the motion. Motion passes.

Land Swap Proposal: Presentation by the Gupta family

Project Manager overviews the current Gupta property and the proposed property in which the Gupta family would like to swap with the Town. Presentation includes the proposed use of land including; Gupta residence, cow pasture, goat pasture, fruit grove, herb garden and associated educational barns, greenhouse, and yoga studio.

The Commission's input:

Commissioner Cumiskey asks about access. The Project Manager states they will be adding a separate drive with gated entry.

Commissioner Tom Dunn asks if the neighbors of the cul-de-sac have been informed of the potential addition of a driveway and farm in their backyards. The Project Manager responds that it has not been completed, but is part of the plan.

Commissioner Joe Falcone mentions that the department could provide an easement of the Town property to allow the family access to their current property as an alternative to the land swap. Commissioner Falcone asks about the parking lot material. Response provided there is no finalized plan, could potentially be gravel.

Commissioner Christine Dunn asks if this is the Recreation Commission's decision or the Town Board's. It is stated the process begins at the Recreation Commission. Commissioner Dunn asks if the land has been appraised, and if there has been representation from the Town. Response is that there has been communication with the Town Attorney. All funds would be private – no town funds required.

Commission states it would like to gain permission to walk the Gupta property.

Chairperson Talbert states the Commission plans to continue communications and prepare for a vote next meeting.

Cross Court Presentation: Representatives from Cross Court

Background: Cross Court has a current location in Hawthorne which was converted from tennis courts to pickleball courts and turf.

Cross Court proposes building over the old tennis courts at Downing Park currently used by the Parks Department for vehicle storage. Cross Court provides various alternate designs including the relocation of the Parks Department and additional parking.

Cross Court proposes a Public-Private Partnership/Collaboration and would like input from the Recreation Commission on interest before proceeding further.

Commissioner Cumiskey ask about potential type of building – steel or semi air frame that can be winterized or a hybrid design. Type of contract agreement? 10 year with extension option.

Commissioner Tom Dunn states he enjoys the idea of improving what is currently existing.

How many courts? Possibly 8-12. Any additional amenities in the facility? Possible social area with some refreshments, but trying to avoid a full kitchen. Commissioner Tom Dunn adds that the new facility should not dwarf the current uses of the facility by the community such as for softball, playground or pavilion. Cross Court states the addition of the structure would not affect the other park uses.

Commissioner Falcone asks about the plan for the parks department building. Cross Court states the building can be built to the department's specifications and adjustments to terms can be made accordingly.

Commissioner Christine Dunn states the financials of the project need to make sense. Would this take revenue from the department? Come up with an agreement based on our fees. Plan to be indoor and outdoor? Yes.

Vice Chairperson Campobasso states the location is not ideal and preference is to keep the parks the same. Commissioner Cumiskey agrees.

Chairperson Talbert states the project has potential to beautify the park but with many deficiencies.

Commissioner Cumiskey notes Planning Department should be included.

Chairperson Talbert and Superintendent Martorano agree to speak to the Planning Department.

Sparkle Lake Association Sign Proposal: Dave Humphrey

Dave Humphrey requests permission from the Commission to install an Announcement Board/sign at the end of Hyatt Street/Granite Springs Road.

Superintendent Martorano will check with Highway Department on appropriate location.

No objections from the Commission.

Cell Tower Discussion:

Chairperson Talbert would like to send a memo to the Town Board on the Recreation Commission's opinion on the project.

Neighbors or project area state there was no notice of the potential project.

Commissioner Cumiskey makes a motion to send a memo stating it was inappropriate that the project proposal did not come in front of the Recreation Commission, nor were any notifications sent out to the residents effected by said project. Vice Chairperson Campobasso seconds the motion. All in favor. Motion passes.

Public Comment:

Dan Strauss:

- Downing Park could use an upgrade, however pickleball could be a fad similar to how tennis was in this town. Park should remain multiuse, but this is an opportunity to put in a facility to beautify the park and serve a need to pickleballers. Agrees with the inclusion of the Parks and Rec building plus improved parking.

- Cell tower situation is a disgrace, with the project being added to the Town Board agenda 2 hours before the meeting.

Karen Erikson:

- Visits Downing Park often as a puppy raiser for Guiding Eyes and opposes the pickleball project as it ruins a family oriented environment.

Mike McDonald:

- Opposes the pickleball project. Selling off parkland which will no longer be public space. Not the appropriate location for a private business and feels like another Club Fit.
- Land Swap: Jane Daniels is for the swap due to the increase in trail possibilities.

Tom Regan:

- The traffic flow on 202 could be affected by the addition of a pickleball facility.

Tony Savistano:

- Should look into ways to beautify Downing Park without a private entity, maybe go out to bid.
- Is there a benefit to the land swap? Is there any guarantee this will be a farm indefinitely or is there a potential for development?

Liaison Reports:

Tom Regan, YAC:

- Murphy Tournament went great. Fall schedule is in.

Mike McDonald, NY/NJ Trail Conference: n/a

Lynne Withers, Pickleball: n/a

Superintendent's Report:

Hunterbrook: Tree fell and destroyed backstop, which has been removed. Claim filed through insurance and payout should be around \$19,000. Needs to come up with a plan for the park.

Shrub Oak Stream: Work has been completed as per the plan put forth by Dan Ciarcia. To follow up with Dan Ciarcia regarding closing the DEC permit.

Kiosk at the Atomic War Veterans Bridge has been replaced.

Sylvan Glen fence has been updated.

Ryan West Scholarship Event (Friends of YPR) held June 8th.

Hole-in One Contest scheduled July 21st

Sparkle Lake Service building – looking into changing doors.

Parks purchased a new dump truck, Recreation ordered a new pickup.

Accessibility Committee meeting on June 24 at 2pm for 202 ballfields accessibility path – create plan and go out to bid.

Renaming event on June 8th – Tom Diana Park at Granite Knolls Recreation & Sports Complex

Provided an update on camp, pool and program registration

RFQ for pool update

Blackberry woods courts – courts to be power-washed. A bench should be there by fall.

New Business:

Field Rental Hierarchy: Chairperson Talbert suggests an update to the current hierarchy.

P&R – School (2-5 weekday slots) – clubs – outside orgs

Would like Clubs to take precedence over the schools except during the 2-5pm weekday timeslots.

Pool Rules: Resident Scott Samoydney would like to pool rules updated to include masks and other devices to be allowed at the pool facilities. Commission to review current rules and discuss further.

Bright Beginnings: Use of field and gazebo with a fee waive. Commission agrees not to waive the fee.

Old Business:

Pickleball Lights: Friends of P&R holds about \$10,000 to go towards this project.

Town Board Liaison Report: N/A

Chair's Report: N/A

Motion to Adjourn at 10:26pm.