

Yorktown Recreation Commission
Thursday, November 7th 2024
Town Hall Board Room

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Matt Talbert, Vice Chairperson John Campobasso, Commissioner Diego Jaramillo, Commissioner Joe Falcone, Commissioner Thomas Dunn, Alternate Commissioner Antonio Galvao

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

Absent: Commissioner Patrick Cumsikey, Commissioner Christine Dunn; Town Board Liaison Luciana Haughwout

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

Approval of the October Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Thomas Dunn makes a motion to approve the October Meeting Minutes. Commissioner Falcone seconds the motion. All Commissioners present vote in favor of the motion. Motion passes.

Garden Club Update:

Pat Frank, Garden Club member, provides the Commission on an update on The Veteran Memorials Circle beautification project. Planting for Phase 1 nearly complete, with the area ready for it's debut on Veteran's Day, Monday November, 11th at 11:00am.

Pat Frank informs the Commission the Garden Club has currently received up to \$6,600 in cash donations to aid in this project. Donations can be made through the Garden Club of Yorktown website, and additional information on how to donate included on the website.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission a meeting is set with the Garden Club regarding involvement with the sensory garden project proposal on Friday, November 8th.

Commission Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair:

Vice Chairperson Campobasso makes a motion to nominate Matthew Talbert for Chair. Commissioner Thomas Dunn seconds the motion. All Commissioners present in favor of the motion. Motion passes.

Chairperson Talbert makes a motion to nominate John Campobasso for Vice Chair. Commissioner Falcone seconds the motion. All Commissioners present in favor of the motion. Motion passes.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Martorano provides the Commission an update on the following:

- Junior Lake Pool Chlorine Tank Replacement: Received the approval of the new plans by the DEC and can schedule the start of construction.
- Tree bank update
- Pickleball Court Replacement: Working on process to install footings in for lighting. Friends of Yorktown Parks and Recreation will be paying for 7 of the 8 footings.

- Visors being installed at Granite Knolls and replacing dead baseball lights. Visors will reduce light overflow and protect the fixtures from water damage.
- Superintendent Martorano received a new F250 truck and Parks Department received a new F550 dump truck.
- Recreation Department move into the AACCCC building is complete. New Recreation Assistant Ava Sperling started 10/21. Senior Recreation Leader position is still vacant. Interviews are being scheduled with a timeline to hopefully have the filled position by December 5th.
- Holiday Lights Parade will be December 7th at 6:00pm
- Recreation Building: Superintendent Martorano and Chairperson Talbert inform the Commission they have begun the process of researching alternatives for a recreation building at the Sparkle Lake location. Current thoughts include prefabricated modular buildings, some being available for purchase on Sourcewell. With the information gathered thus far, estimates for a 4,000 square foot building can cost about 1.2 million not including foundation.
- Sensory Garden: Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission he is beginning steps towards organizing a plan and build estimate for a sensory garden at Granite Knolls. One of these steps includes meeting with a landscape architect. He adds he would like to provide the Town Board with multiple options. Councilwoman Susan Siegel recommends holding discussions about alternate locations. Commissioner Thomas Dunn includes that the proposed size and scope of the project is unsustainable and too large to be accomplished by volunteers alone. Chairperson Talbert notes a landscape architect was consulted when Granite Knolls was initially built and of the 200 trees originally planted, more than half had needed replacement and then ultimately needed to be pulled because they could not survive in the environment.

Town Board Liaison Report: Councilwoman Susan Siegel provides a report to the Commission in Town Board Liaison Haughwout's absence.

Councilwoman Siegel provides an update on the rec fee law. Councilwoman Siegel states the areas of the law that are lacking or need clarification have been identified and states that where a rec fee is involved, the Recreation Commission should be involved.

Councilwoman Siegel states she will send her progress to the Commission and try to get the process started.

Vice Chairperson Campobasso asks Councilwoman Siegel why e-bikes got excluded in the ATV law update. Councilwoman Siegel states e-bikes are treated differently and that if e-bikes are also posing a problem, that should be presented to the Town Board.

Public Comment:

Al French asks the Commission if alternative locations have been thought about for a solar project since the HESP Granite Knolls project got shut down. Chairperson Talbert states that other locations such as Shrub Oak Park have been looked at, however it was considered an inappropriate location due to potential flooding.

Tom Regan asks the Commission for an update on the Crystal Lake cell tower project. Councilwoman Siegel responds that the alienation has been signed by state legislature.

Liaison Reports:

Al French, YYSC

Informs Superintendent Martorano that YYSC will be attentive about getting off the field 5 minutes before rental time ends.

Informs Superintendent Martorano that the big goals keep getting moved at Granite Knolls.

Tom Regan, YAC

Informs the Commission that winter registration is open.

Superintendent Martorano informs the YAC and YYSC liaisons that winter field requests for December, January and February can be sent to him.

Joe Falcone, Seniors

Informs the Commission that the next Senior Advisory meeting scheduled for Friday November 15th.

Motion to adjourn at 8:17pm.