

Minutes from November 16, 2023 Recreation Commission Meeting. The meeting was held at 7pm at Village Hall. In attendance were Commission members Matt DeGraff, James Curley-Egan, Leslie Leonard, Alexandra Laurino, Events Coordinator Lillian Moser and Ann Bouchard. Chair Jeff Amato joined the meeting via ZOOM.

The Minutes from the October 19, 2023 meeting were approved.

Commission Business

Dog Park - Chair Amato was happy to report that the Village Board had given the go ahead for the Dog Park at Mayor's Park. The Commission can now begin fundraising for the project. The Friends of Philipstown are helping the Commission create a QR code. As soon as the QR code is made, flyers will be done and posted at Dockside as well as the information going out on the Village's Social Media and Website.

The next anticipated fundraiser after the Dog Park will be for a Sun shade at the Tots Park.

Eagle Scout Project - The Village Board had approved the preliminary presentation. Chair Amato reported that the HDRB at their last meeting gave the project the go ahead. The Scout needs to have this project completed by March.

AARP Grant- The Village accountant has given Chair Amato information regarding the Commission applying for an AARP Grant. This grant would help with giving the Village's Senior population (50+) more opportunities to enjoy our Parks. Some ideas that were mentioned were helping get the equipment and area ready for Cornhole Tournaments, Bocce, Pickleball, Shuffleboard as well as additional benches in some of our parks.

En Plein Air - A discussion was brought up about having an En Plein Air event. The idea also brought up reaching out to the store "Supplies for

Creative Living” to see if they would be willing to help with supplies for the event. Target Spring or Summer for the event.

Ice Skating Rink at McConville Park - Although they agree it is a great idea, the Commission agreed that this year may not be the year to try it out. Philipstown Rec never opened their rink last year because it never got cold enough for it to freeze properly. There was also a discussion on Security and Liability. This concept will be included in the Recreation Commission Comprehensive Plan.

Marathon Property - Commission member DeGraff will be looking into reaching out to the Marathon developer to find out more about the developer’s idea for the public space on the site.

Tots Park improvements- The Commission is looking for Programs and Facility Improvements at the Tots Park. One Idea that was mentioned was Sprinkler Time during the summer months. Chair Amato will be reaching out to Water Superintendent Matt Kroog about repairing the spigot at McConville Park. The spigot is not only important for programs like Sprinkler Time but also for the plantings at the Park like the new Butterfly Garden and those plantings at the Patriot Garden.

Tree Trimming and Tree Planting - The Tree Advisory board is not only looking at tree trimming of the Weeping Willows at Mayor’s Park but also trees at the Tots Park. There are concerns that some of the trees may be getting to an age that they will need to be taken down. They are hoping to possibly do some tree planting at Mayor’s Park to help replace those trees when the time comes.

Interval Training & Yoga - Will be looking at starting in the Spring. Location and times will still need to be addressed, depending upon the drainage work on Fair Street at Mayor’s Park.

An Afternoon of Games at Mayor’s Park - The idea of an afternoon of different games (i.e. Cornhole, Volleyball, Pickleball, etc.) was discussed

that can be enjoyed by residents and could possibly be used as a fundraiser.

Social Media - It was discussed if the Recreation Commission could have their own Social Media Accounts. Chair Amato explained that all Social Media needs to be vetted through the Village.

Comprehensive Plan - Throughout the entire meeting, ideas and thoughts have come up that will be added to the Comprehensive Plan. Other topics that should be included and that members have begun working on include:

- The Parks - A description of each of the Village's Recreational Areas. A History of them. An assessment of existing conditions?
- Site Improvements - What's missing?
- Programs - Existing and what could be offered?

A rough draft of the Comprehensive Plan is being compiled by Chair Amato from contributions from Commission Members. The Commission will begin redlining in 2024 to prepare to be presented to the Village Board.

The next Rec Commission meeting will be on December 21, 2023 at 7pm.

Tree Lighting is scheduled for December 2nd (rain date the 3rd) at 4pm. Vera's will again be donating the tree. The Philipstown Reform Synagogue will be joining us. The Girl Scouts will be caroling. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be arriving with the help of the Cold Spring Fire Company. Refreshments will be served by the Hudson House.

The Bandstand decorating will take place the afternoon of either 11/25 or 11/26. Chair Amato will test the lights and replace bulbs beforehand.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by L. Moser