

**Nyack Parks Commission Minutes
June 2012 Meeting (held on July 11th, 2012)
Meeting Minutes taken by James Willcox**

Park Commissioners present:

Jim Willcox, chair
Bert Hughes, vice-chair
Marcy Denker

Minutes. Previous minutes were approved.

Memorial Park: Bert reported that the Memorial Park bathrooms are now being locked at 6:00 p.m. instead of 10:00 p.m. This is causing problems during for people using the park facilities in the early evening hours, including those playing basketball, families using the children's playground, etc. It is particularly disturbing during events, such as the summer music program, that attract larger crowds. The situation apparently stems from the change in parking hours, as it is the job of the parking authority to lock the bathrooms. Because parking fees are now suspended at 6:00 p.m., parking agents are simply locking the bathrooms when they go off duty.

A proposed solution is to have the parking authority agents lock the bathrooms at 11:00 p.m., when agents go back on duty to enforce metered parking.

There also appears to be issues with the bathrooms having adequate supplies, including toilet paper. There is anecdotal evidence that there are several people now living in the park that are talking toilet paper and other supplies from the bathroom to use elsewhere once the bathrooms are closed. Bert reported that a fire had been started in one of the bathrooms.

There is also no longer a working water fountain near the restrooms. Bert said he would offer to replace the water fountain with one he has purchased.

Several members also noted that the fountain located in the upper area of the park near Piermont Avenue needs to be removed. This has been an ongoing issue.

The general consensus is that the Village needs to meet at least the very minimum services for people who use Memorial Park.

It was also suggested that the Parks Commission should meet with the Village to discuss what is still to do in the park per the consensus plan, and the time frame for that happening. This includes decisions about trees, the proposed relocation of the gazebo, the children's garden, etc.

Trees for Tribs: As part of the Green Infrastructure Committee, Marcy has been working/discussing a Trees for Tribs (Tributaries) tree-planting effort being proposed and spearheaded by Candice Robbins. Marcy said the Parks Commission needs additional info from the Village, perhaps with a parks walk-through with the Village's arborist, to determine what the Parks Commission can contribute. Jim invited Candice to the next Parks meeting to explain the program, its benefits, and her plan, an invitation that was missed or ignored.

New Lawn: Several members noted the poor condition of the new lawn, which was planted in the area formerly occupied by the tennis and basketball courts. The Nyack Garden Club contacted Jen to register concerns about the possible use of pesticides on the lawn, particularly because of the potential impact on the butterflies, and Jen assured them that the lawn care would be organic.

It appears that under the contract the Village signed the reseeding and lawn treatment is supposed to be organic. The Parks Commission will try and get more information about what was done and how the new lawn will be maintained.

New Parks Commissioner Recommendation: The Parks Commission unanimously recommended that the Village Board appoint Steve Guarascio to one of the open Commissioner positions.

8:15 Meeting was adjourned