

Nyack Parks Commission Minutes

September 26, 2012 7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes taken by Carolyn Cairns

Park Commissioners present:

Jim Willcox Chair

Steve Guarascio

Carolyn Nunley Cairns

1. **Communications about the Playground and Coordination with the Conservancy**

Steve is spearheading for the involvement of the Parks Conservancy to raise funds for rehabilitation of the children's playground in Memorial Park. A PO Box for the Conservancy has been established, and a press release about the effort has been drafted for distribution to local media. A PayPal account will be established on the Conservancy website to accept donations. The Conservancy has a board of directors, including some Parks Commission members, which needs to be reactivated. The commissioners present discussed holding a Conservancy planning meeting to discuss future activities, including fundraising efforts, website updates, etc. It needs to be determined who has administrative privileges for the Conservancy website and access to bank account. Jim will get the contact list from Jen M. and get a meeting scheduled.

2. **It was suggested that the Conservancy might want to engaging local politicians** to enhance support for memorial Park and possibly the marina. The possibility of securing donations from leftover campaign funds was discussed, as was involvement of local villages (Upper Nyack, South Nyack, etc.)

3. **Ad hoc Community Action Committee has been established.** First objective is Playground Committee for memorial Park renovation/maintenance. First project is to get feedback and support for fundraising activities by the Conservancy. Steve currently has six people expressing interest as committee members, plus another half-dozen interested in helping. The Parks Commission will assist with research on comparative costs, material options, site plans, etc. Jim stressed need for meeting ADA and CSPC compliance requirements. Steve is also exploring different parks – one refurbished recently in Nanuet... themes, etc. Carolyn Nunley Cairns is interested in exploring equipment durability issues and a plan for maintenance. Jim can assist in media outreach when ready.

4. **Public Communication:** Need FAQs on various topics for Village Website (and Parks page)

a) new design of Memorial Park;

b) new playground;

c) links to the Conservancy and other partners (RRA, marina, garden club). First start with

activating the Conservancy before we build a link.

5. **Housekeeping** Issues in the Park: Fence along the back is broken – why not replace with metal and plan and budget for maintenance? Steve will contact Yaboo to get a general estimate (black metal pool fence). Village Board will be notified of issue and possible hazard stemming from exposed screws. Important to get a firm commitment on when it will be taken care of and ask to be informed to confirm that fix has been made.

6. **RRA:** Jim will attend workshop tomorrow for their presentation on their plan for the rowing facility.
7. **Security:** Bert is working with an outreach organization to go into Memorial Park and discuss property discussion issues with the homeless or those currently living/sleeping in the park. VB is working with the police. Bert mentioned engaging Auxiliary police during the last meeting. Can we follow up with this? There was discussion about what can be done to keep people out of the park when it closes at 10:00 pm, the need for better lighting, etc. It was suggested that the Parks Commission reach out to other communities to see how they are handling similar situations, and to see if we can get police to answer questions like what happens to homeless people picked up in the park?