

Nyack Parks Commission December 26, 2012 Meeting

Attended by:

James Willcox, Chair

Bert Hughes, Vice-Chair

Marcy Denker

Steve Guarascio

Carolyn Cairns

Randy Rand has applied for the open seat on the Parks Commission and will be invited to attend the meeting at the end of January. He applied previously, but Bruce Kenney was selected on the basis of his past experience with marinas.

Steve reported on the Ad Hoc Playground Action Committee, which will be meeting on the third Tuesday of each month. Planning for a spring cocktail benefit is underway. Jim clarified the importance of making this committee a subcommittee of the Nyack Parks Conservancy due to the limitations of the types of fundraising that can be conducted by the Commission. Jim, Bert, and Steve will meet with Jen White after Jan 11th to make it formal. Other possible events were discussed, including a children's pajama concert by the Hiccups and other local kids performers, a film and poetry series, and possibly, later, a concert in the park.

Opinion surveys: architectural playground – link to YouTube musical running pad from Spain. Ask public for input on equipment preferences. Surface material – rubber chips about \$60,000 for the rubber chips. JC Brotherhood has access to rubber surfacing from a movie set that could possibly be used for pathways in the playground. He will get the specs and Carolyn can look at the material safety. Surface area of the playground is approximately 8,500 square feet. Just need enough to make the park wheelchair accessible. Jim and Bert will get the specs for both interlocking rubber pavers and the JCB stuff. Bert feels it's important (required?) to get three estimates for anything the Village purchases.

The group discussed the need for an overall concept for the playground and how to guide a possible second donation from a donor who has already purchased a piece of equipment, now in storage, for the playground. Jen White asked Steve for a list of five or six ideas and he gave a list of items from Architect Playground and Soundplay. Jim will ask her about the status of the planned purchase along with some other items he plans to discuss with her. He will also inquire about the situation with the water sprinklers—whether there is a plan for renovation or possible replacement, and to ensure that the commission has input on that project before any decisions are made. Others emphasized the importance of considering maintenance needs and costs for any future equipment—especially plumbing.

Several suggestions about how to create a concept plan for the playground were discussed. Bert mentioned that several companies develop options for free. Marcy, a landscape architect, suggested a small charette including her, local playground designers (Anne Wells, Anne Brooks), and other knowledgeable participants, with the objective of working with scale drawings of the playground and available equipment options and identifying critical factors and space needs. The findings of the charette could be used as a guide for a public survey to determine choices. Bert also mentioned the existence of a New York State Parks and Recreation Association that might be a good resource, especially if their annual meeting is happening in the local area.

Bert also suggested involving Friends of the Nyacks in some formal way (perhaps as a co-sponsor) to help with fundraising. They meet the first Wednesday of each month. Steve and Bert will plan to attend their February meeting.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the request for input on placement of a plaque honoring the Tappan Zee Scenic District and Scenic Hudson. The group agreed that the best location would be at the top of the stairs by the water fountain, perhaps the most scenic view in the park and a site with prominent placement.

Bert also mentioned his recent donation of a drinking fountain for the basketball court area and is unclear why it was not installed. Instead, a different fountain was installed, and he plans to discuss the matter with the Village Administrator. Marcy said she would look into options for fountain types and designs.