

Nyack Parks Commission Minutes
July, 2013
Meeting Minutes taken by Carolyn Cairns

Park Commissioners present:

Bert Hughes
Steve Guarascio
Randy Rand
Carolyn Cairns

7:00 Meeting begins

Tan/Wax Property: Randy reported on water rights on deed for Tan/Wax property adjacent to the park and presented a copy of the deed. More history was discussed on the village's interest in acquiring riparian rights for the purpose of installing a bridge from Memorial Park to the marina. The group agreed that the commission should strongly advocate for the Village Board to expedite a concerted effort to resume negotiations with the property owner to secure legal access necessary for the bridge.

Serious Deficiencies in Park Maintenance: Safety and other problems at recent park events were discussed.

1. Sewage problem with the toilets, resulting in closure of the bathrooms and failure to provide port-o-potties for Mostly Music, leaving about 400 participants without working toilets. The group questioned whether this violates county health regulations. Bert explained his calls to bring the problem to the attention of the Mayor and Village Administrator, but that there's been no clear response on planned action as of yet.

2. Gardens and plantings also not appropriately tended with weeds reaching 6 feet in some locations, raising questions about who in the village is responsible for maintenance and oversight of this function if it is being done by a private contractor. There was discussion of past Commission efforts to draft an RFP for park maintenance and whether it went into effect and with which village staff or an outside contractor. Some thought there was a plan to include these responsibilities in the job description for the park recreation director. Bert will ask our chair to contact Vic, from Public Works, Jim Politi and the mayor to obtain answers to these questions.

- Planters: A motion was accepted to recommend that planters that Marcy reported as being thrown around in the children's area be placed in a more appropriate location and filled with soil and plants within the next week, or put in storage until such time as they can be properly used.

- Green Guidelines were also mentioned as important for the September agenda. Steve will work with Marcy to come up with a draft set of policies to present to the VB, which will include specifications for native plants.

3. Plan for regular inspections: As a follow-up action, the group agreed to make a plan for Commission members to regularly inspect and report on park conditions, one day each per week, using a template we will develop to provide regular feedback to the

village board in a standard format. Carolyn and Randy will draft a worksheet, possibly in a form that will automatically compile the data we report.

4. Lighting: A motion was also approved unanimously to recommend to the Village Board that for safety reasons, they install a light in the area Northwest of the basketball courts, in front of the children's' play area, to ensure a minimum amount of lighting for security here when the court lights are turned off.

5. Fountain: Bert reported that he and Marcy met with the Water Dept. staff and they confirmed they are prepared to help move it to the desired new location, once it is approved by the architect and Mayor, which Bert will confirm in contact with Mayor.

Recreation Activities: There was discussion about the current status of the recreation program and interest in getting more directly connected with the director. Steve shared that the Village Board proposed to the Conservancy an effort to obtain a portable skating rink for winter.

Regular contact with VB members: Ideas were discussed for how to improve contact, or get representation at regular board meetings. Changing our meeting to Thursday night isn't feasible due to conflicting schedules. Failing members' ability to attend both VB meetings and PC meetings, another option is to provide a report, with specific questions and problems for VB action, and ask for it to be formally entered into the agenda, or to have a specific time on the agenda for PC business so one of us can attend for a short period and not have to be there for the whole time.

New Business

Hardscape Donation Program. Group agreed at next meeting to discuss how we might create a catalog of items – benches, trees, etc. with a possible set of plaques that we could offer people interested in making a donation to the park.

Marina: group requested an update for next meeting on status of the rowing club.

8:15 Meeting adjourned