

Nyack Parks Commission Minutes March 26 2014

Parks Commissioners Present:

Jim Willcox
Steve Guarascio
Bert Hughes
Randy Rand Carolyn Cairns
Rodger Stevens

Guests: Jeanine Maupin, representing a Riverkeeper cleanup project
Ani Adashian, Nyack Park Conservancy board member with playground update

7:00 Meeting Start

Playground Update: Nancy and Jim are approving a sign letting visitors know that reconstruction of the children's playground will begin this spring. Jim is doing a media plan to update community.

Ani provided an update on the project, which now calls for the Village to draft an RFP for bids for the entire playground renovation, since the total dollar amounts exceeds the trigger that requires a bidding process. This involves two surveys and the creation of a topographic map, which are being done. At this point, the project has been turned over from the Park Conservancy to the Village, which will oversee construction.

Given that the playground's construction is beginning later than originally imagined, it was suggested that Jim talk to the Village about running a series of kids' events in the park to help mitigate the impact of the playground being out of commission. Several ideas were offered, ranging from purchasing inexpensive play items—beach balls, pails and shovels—to musical events and story-time readings for younger kids. Everyone thought this was a great idea.

Sprinkler update: Last fall Jim spoke the company maintaining the water-play area in the playground. The sprinklers should be operational once again this summer, but some basic maintenance needs to be performed. Jim will contact Jim Politi, the Village Administrator, to discuss work that needs to be done, including cleaning all the drains and traps, removing the current rubber mats, which are in very poor shape, and regarding the area before new mats can be installed.

Bathrooms: There were two recent issues where the bathrooms were closed when they should have been open. The Village is aware of the problem and will try to prevent it from happening again. Bert mentioned that a few years ago the Village Board approved a park maintenance position that was never filled, suggested the Commission again address the issue with the Village.

Memorial Park Clean up: Jeanine discussed a project she's working on with Riverkeeper, which involves a planned Memorial Park cleanup on May 10th. Jeanine would also like for Nyack to participate in Riverkeeper's annual water-sampling effort. Jeanine is requesting approval from the Parks Commission and a request that the DPW be able to pick up the trash bags at the end of the event, and provide other resources as need. Bert moved to support the effort, which was approved unanimously by the Parks Commission members who were present. Riverkeeper has its own insurance to cover the event.

Regarding the water-sampling program, Bert suggested that Jeanine contact Nyack High School to involve students in the effort.

Children's Garden: Jim provided an update on the children's garden, funded by a grant, which will be located outside the renovated playground. Jim has met with Melody Partrick, the Village's recreation director, and Marcy Denker, who spearheads the Village's Green Desk, about creating planter boxes and container gardens, and running ecological/botanical programs once the garden is built. It appears the playground fence will need be to be erected first, since the planters will be located just outside the new fence. Melody, Marcy and Jim will try and get a prototype built to determine how well it will meet the needs of the children and programs. Melody will also be talking with several current and retired teachers to see if they'd like to help with the program.

Marina: It is unlikely that the marina will be operational this summer, with the exception of the boat launch and the eco dock (for use by human-powered vessels). The Village is still dealing with FEMA for reimbursement for repairs that were made on the bulkheads at the north side of the marina, and the whole needs to be dredged to remove silt that has built up from the last two years' storms. There was a question about whether or not the Village has applied for any of the supposed \$10 million the Tappan Zee Bridge authority has set aside for local projects.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Minutes kept by Carolyn Cairns