

Nyack Parks Commission Minutes January 28, 2015
Meeting Minutes taken by Jim Willcox

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Park Commissioners present:

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

Marie Lorenzini, Village Trustee and Parks liaison
James Politi, Village administrator
Members of the Nyack Park Conservancy
Chrissy Place, ad hoc Parks Commission advisor

7:00 PM Meeting begins

Update by Village Administrator Politi:

Fishing/Viewing Pier: The pilings are complete, awaiting installation of wood decking. It is estimated that the pier will be finished late this spring. Amenities will include fixed benches/seats, plus some movable tables and chairs, as well as viewing stations with magnifying binoculars. Some discussion about the chairs and whether they should consider other options to ensure they aren't stolen or "end up in the river". Pier will include signage about the bridge. Suggestion it would be nice to include some signs with info about the river, habitat, natural environment, etc. Will also involve some construction on the shore so pier is ADA compliant. There was also a discussion of creating artwork conducive to the pier.

Skate plaza: Everything is now in place (plans, fully funded) but Village still needs to let the contract go to bid. Gazebo needs to be removed prior to the skate plaza installation to stabilize ground and avoid potential damage to skate plaza structure. Completion expected this spring.

Playground: Fencing is needed along the northern end near the road especially, given proximity to the roadway. There has been discussion of using a natural barrier, such as a hedge, at the top of the hill/slide to keep kids from going to the upper part of the park. There is still some discussion as to what will actually be fenced in, and where the fence will be located. The current plan is to extend the playground fence to the basketball court, with a corridor between the two accessed via gates on either side. Jim Willcox said that the Parks Commission's outreach to parents indicates there's a preference for the playground itself to be contained, and will address this issue with the Village Board. There is also discussion as to the type of fence, height, and materials, since if the playground fence is chain link, it will mean a lot of chain-link fencing in the park. Bert Hughes will look into alternative, historical types of fencing, and the commission will consider ways to mitigate the impact if chain-link is utilized for cost reasons. There is still a plan to build children's planters along the perimeter of the fence. The Village has ordered benches for playground seating, and a commemorative bench will also be situated in the playground. There was also a discussion of whether a local artist might be interested in creating a sculpture out of the remaining stumps from the large tree that needed to be removed at the very top of the slope, and what type of landscaping and soil treatment will be needed near the new hillside slide.

The Village has exhausted the money raised by the Nyack Park Conservancy, and will pay for the playground fence, as well as a railing that needs to be installed next to the steps leading up to the new hillside slide. The Village has pledged \$15,000 to cover these costs.

Water feature: Jim W asked about plans for the existing water feature to inform NPC and others what infrastructure exists and/or may need to be replaced or supplemented for a new water feature. Jim P said those plans have not been located and they still need to find them.

Gazebo: Village is working with Quennell Rothschild to formulate a new gazebo design after the first was rejected. The placement of the gazebo, per the master plan, will be near the pier. Discussion is now about what type of replacement to build and costs. May have a temporary set up this summer so that music in the park and other activities can still take place.

Sidewalk: A CBDG will be submitted to replace some of the sidewalks along Piermont Ave., in front of the park, and down the opposite side of street (Depew) leading into the park. They will be ADA compliant and allow parents with strollers to better and more safely access the park and the playground.

Marina: \$2.4 million from FEMA has been secured to redo the dock and bulkhead, and also to fix the walls along the stream in the south part of the park. The Village believes the marina will be dredged, with some seasonal slips available for the 2015 boating season. Timeline not specified.

Master plan update: This is described as mainly intending to update the plan to align with newer codes and considerations for sustainability, energy efficiency and climate change. No update on Tan/Wax and bridge connecting marina and park. Marcy Denker will try and update a drawing to show how all the new park elements fit together (playground, skate plaza, basketball court, gazebo, children's garden, etc.)

Gedney cleanup site: There was some discussion regarding development of properties on Gedney Street near the Cleremont. Jim Politi mentioned the possibly townhouses and apartments and maybe some commercial space. Apparently, any development proposals would include public meetings.

Sustainability: Marcy Denker, who heads the Village's Green Desk, came and discussed several green initiatives and committee activities, including tree inventories and plantings, sustainability, recycling, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.