

Nyack Parks Commission Minutes March 25, 2015
Meeting Minutes taken by Carolyn Cairns

February 25, 2015

Park Commissioners present:

Jim Willcox
Steve Guarascio
Carolyn Cairns
Randy Rand

Also attending:

Marie Lorenzini, Village trustee and Parks Commission liaison
Marcy Denker, Village Green Desk

7:00 PM Meeting begins

Playground: Jim has been trying to schedule a meeting to discuss with the mayor and Jim Politi. Questions remain about type of fencing allowed, since risk assessment ruled out chain link, due to proximity to roadway. (Fence can't be climbable.) Believe the initial estimate for the fence was in the range of \$15K. Bert has sample of a wrought-iron fencing, will try and get an estimate of cost per linear foot. Depending on cost, will reach out to the Conservancy to see if it would be willing to fundraise to cover the difference.

Lighting in the park: The Parks Commission is interested in working with the Energy Committee to look at grants and other subsidies to replace current lighting with more energy-efficient alternatives, such as LED and solar. Steve is looking for CAD diagram for lighting plan. Based on a survey done by Chrissy Place, the current plan doesn't accurately note the true locations of the light poles, and March Denker noted it's also not accurate with respect to trees. Marcy will try to merge existing plans. Steve will be assessing park lighting plan to explore needs and options. Marcy discussed with to see how the Parks Commission could work with the Village's Energy Committee. Waiting for response from orange and Rockland about ownership of the pole and light fixtures. Existing pole is now more prominent (and unattractive) now that tree at the back of the upper area has been removed. Jim will contact Q about a lighting designer, though there is no funding to hire anyone. Lighting company requires a CAD drawing for estimate, Steve will be in contact. Marcy will provide an as-built plan with qualification that tree locations aren't quite right. Marcy can do make a CAD file that converts existing document into something usable for folks who offered to do the lighting estimate.

Playground Slide: Once frost ends, a railing will be constructed and the slide will open.

Marina. It is the intent of the Village to open the marina, at least partially with some slips available. Jim will find out more about opening and work—especially dredging—that needs to be done.

Sidewalk: A CBDG grant 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. Bert feels strongly that there should be walkway on the park side of the road, so that families and children aren't being forced to cross a heavily trafficked road to enter the playground.

Marcy's report on green initiatives. Marcy discussed the current list of priorities.

1. Build planters: challenge to get people to come. Have about 15 planters. Melody Partrick is organizing day to prep wood and assemble planters via a community build. Will be approaching Jeff Scotto, who built planters for sunflower garden planted last year by Chrissy and volunteers. Jim will speak with Melody to get clarity on what they need. One prototype has been built, will use that as a basic design, though shorter to allow easier access by kids.
2. Children's garden. Details discussed about rain collection and water feature and grant funds from NY Soil and Water. Jim suggested the possibility of providing funds to Nyack Center, which will be running children's planting programs.
3. Leaf blower. Don Hammond is the point person from the Village Board. Adoption of the "Love 'Em and Leave 'Em" program will be addressed at first April VB meeting. If approved, Marcy will put together a new RFP that requires these strategies.
4. Arbor Day. Nyack is tree city USA city. Plans include an Instagram photo competition: picture of a tree, plus an explanation of why you love it. Trees gets mapped, and here will be a photo gallery. Tree Committee will present awards to the winners, schools will be involved. Jim will remind Roger about getting someone to sculpt the tree stump.
5. Discussion about refurbishing the plantings in Veterans Park on Main Street due to drainage issues that caused plantings to fail. Marcy is exploring options for fixing it, but this is the start of a much larger discussion. Some tree replacement will be worthwhile, as failing trees, some invasive, will be replaced with more appropriate non-invasive species.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.