

## **Parks Commission Minutes September 2, 2015**

Parks Commissioners Present:

Jim Willcox  
Bert Hughes  
Steve Guarascio  
Roger Stevens

Minutes take by Carolyn Cairns

7:00 PM Meeting starts.

**Gedney Street development project:** How does this impact Memorial Park? Some suggested that the Park Commission voice concerns about its impact on the parks and waterfront. Others suggested that as it will not involve actual Village parkland, the Parks Commission should refrain from publicly commenting unless requested to do so by the Village. Have to clearly define our interests in this. Discussion included visual impact on the community, view corridors and height (four stories with narrower corridors, six stories with wider corridors), amenities tied grants for larger structures, etc. Noted that the Claremont pier is not clearly Nyack parkland, but public access is key.

**Park improvements:** Bert, representing the Parks Commission, attended an in-park meeting in Memorial Park with the mayor and park design firm. Regarding the fishing/viewing pier, the access ramp/steps need to be reworked to provide access by disabled visitors; work is underway. The idea of moveable/removable furniture on the pier was discussed, Bert expressed PC opposition to the idea due the requirement that it be stored nightly and the possibility that it will be stolen or tossed into the river. The Village suggested a central locked storage locker located on the pier could hold the seating when not in use. The Parks Commission is concerned it will take up too much room and could be unsightly, plus someone will have to be tasked with setting up and putting away the seats on a daily basis.

New park maintenance employee. The Village has hired a staffer, within the DPW, who will be responsible for park maintenance. While pleased with this hire, the Parks Commission feels it should have been involved in the discussion prior to the hiring, and that it should have been present during the candidate interviews, since park maintenance issues fall within its purview. The Commission would like to have the new employee attend an upcoming Pars Commission meeting.

**Gazebo.** According to Bert, at the in-park meeting there was a suggestion that the new gazebo be relocated to the east side of the park, which Bert objected to. It seems that the gazebo will instead remain at its intended location closer to the Butterfly Garden.

**Placement of Rex Bernstein memorial stone.** Will be along the riverside path. Replacement of dilapidated stone wall with metal fencing is planned. There was some discussion about clearing out the rubble from the creek.

**Water feature was vandalized again.** Part was ordered but probably will not be fixed before next spring. Police apparently have video surveillance. CNC suggested we FOIA the video. Lighting plan was mentioned without many specifics.

**Water fountain.** Dilapidated water fountain on the upper level of the park needs to be replaced. Village administrator offered to demolish old one. Parks Commission will offer to help with, or do, the demolition. Bert has someone willing to build a new base. Roger and Bert and Jim expressed interest to do it tentatively on or around September 12<sup>th</sup>. It'd be great if new one could be installed the same day. Bert will call Marcy about placement of the new fountain. Bert will contact the mason and see if he can do the project in and around the 12<sup>th</sup>. If not, they can schedule the demolition around his availability.

**Children's playground fence:** Bert said the blacksmith isn't currently available. Based on sample, cost for the entire fence will be about \$11,800, without installation. Pickup and installation (cement footings) will cost \$3,000. Bert checked out an alternative with a slightly different design, estimate for 450 feet of fencing would be \$18,000, with no gates and no installation. Parks Commission recommends getting Village approval of the design and placing order as soon as possible to ensure that installation can take pace after last frost. It's possible some work could start earlier this year, depending on weather. Bert will discuss with the Village administrator get the order in process. If VB re-iterates prior concern about consistency with existing fence design around the bathrooms, we recommend that the transition be managed with plantings.

**New memorial bench:** See where existing benches are and where to best locate this bench.

8:20 Meeting adjourned.