

Ardsley Parks & Recreation
February 20, 2024

The February 20th Parks & Recreation meeting began at 5 PM. In attendance were Tony Vacca, Lorraine Kuhn, Dave Whitehead, Andy DiJusto/Senior Liaison and Barry McGoey/VB Liaison.

Recreation Commission welcomes Tony Vacca, our newest member of Ardsley Parks & Recreation Dept.

Welcome to Trustee Barry McGoey, our new Recreation Commission liaison and Trustee Andy DiJusto, our new Seniors liaison.

Old Business:

Christmas Tree Lighting:

Our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting was a big success. We had over 300 people attending at the Firehouse enjoying snacks, coffee & hot chocolate, and gifts for the children. Thank you to Highway, Police and ASVAC and AHS Key Club for their excellent help.

Menorah Lighting:

We had over 100 people attending at the Community Center, enjoying doughnuts. Thank you to Highway and Police for their help with this event.

Winter Programs:

Winter programs are finishing up and spring sessions will be starting soon. Programs include Youth Basketball, Adult Open Gym, 7th & 8th Grade Developmental Basketball, After School Chess, Minecraft 3D, Adult Zumba & Zumba and Toning, and Acting Classes. Since November, we enrolled an additional 240 participants.

Upcoming Programs:

Pre K to 8 Outdoor Developmental Basketball:

This new after school program will be held outdoors at Pascone Park Basketball Court. There are 4 sections: pre K, K-2, 3-5, 6-8. Program starts April 25.

Pickleball:

This popular new sport will have 2 new programs. Intro to Pickleball instructional course for children and adults starting March 11, and Open Play Pickleball sessions starting April 13. Pickleball programs will be held at Pascone Park. Rec Comm members liked this new initiative. There was a question about the courts, and Tennis Court #1 has been lined for Pickleball.

Grit Ninja:

This program will return to Pascone Park on Mondays starting April 15th. There will be sessions for K-1 and 2-5 grades.

Friday Field Night:

This is a new activity for grades 6 to 8. It will be held at Pascone Park on April 26, and it will be an evening of fun & games with refreshments.

Easter Egg Hunt:

Our very popular Easter Egg Hunt is coming up on Saturday March 30th. It will be held at Pascone Park and we have 5000 eggs to find! This year, the Seniors will help out putting together our Easter Baskets for the children.

Annual 5K Race:

Our Annual 5K Race will be held on May 5th. There was a question about memorial dedication, but this has not been determined yet. It was mentioned that Dobbs Ferry holds a Holiday Hustle Race.

Food Truck Friday:

This extremely popular event will be held on May 10th at Pascone Park. There will be 8 Food Trucks. Saw Mill Tavern will sponsor the Beer Tent this year.

Multicultural, Diversity & Inclusion Committee Events:

Ardley Parks & Recreation Dept works closely with MDIC to sponsor numerous special events throughout the year. These events include, Lunar New Year, Holi, Diwali, , Juneteenth, Pride Caravan, Italian Festival and more. The Ramadan & Eid Event is coming up on March 8th.

Youth Advocate:

The Village is still searching for a new Youth Advocate. It was noted that some of the after school programs have received County Youth Bureau funding for over 20 years. "Homework Helpers" receives a small amount of County funding, but the program has been on pause, awaiting a new Youth Advocate.

Seniors:

The Seniors have been very busy. They had lunch at Stagioni's and a healthcare check from Drs United. Next week, Iron Health will do a Falling Prevention & Balancing presentation, and Westchester County Traffic Safety will do a presentation about the older & wiser driver. At the end of the month, Ardsley PD Officer Abbott will do a Fraud & Scam Prevention presentation. A "Senior Prom" is planned for later this spring. A Rec Comm member asked about location. It will likely be the AHS Cafeteria. Wellness Forms have been filled out by each Senior with emergency contact information in case of bad weather. Tony will create a Contact List with email addresses, cell & home phone numbers. Seniors will have their St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on March 13th at the Community Center. It was noted that it is cost effective to do the cooking ourselves in- house at the Firehouse. The next luncheon will be at Saw Mill Tavern on March 20th. Tony said that it is nice to patronize local Ardsley restaurants. A luncheon is planned for the new restaurant, Szechuan City, in April. Tony would like to plan 6 to 7 trips per year including Arthur Ave and NY Botanical Gardens. He recently arranged for Silver Star Coach Bus at \$600. It was noted that Hastings has a small 13 seat bus for \$400, so the Coach Bus is a more cost-effective arrangement. A Rec member agreed, since we have a larger Senior group now. Tony is working on the Senior budget which does not receive funding until June 1st. There was a question about fund raising, but this is no longer allowed for municipalities.

New Business:**Parks & Recreation Facebook:**

Tony is happy to report that the Ardsley Parks & Recreation Facebook page is up and running.
<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090702799786>

Parks Report:

Parks revenue this year is close to \$13,000, owing to Cricket, AYSO, Greenburgh United soccer, Just in Time, Yankee Camp, Food Truck permits and Park Rentals. An additional \$4000 is anticipated this spring as Field Rentals, Cricket and Pickle Ball begin again. There was brief discussion about the Master Parks Plan and it was mentioned that Amphitheater construction and Gazebo removal are planned. A Rec member said that the Gazebo is an iconic structure in Pascone Park.

Community Center Update:

The Community Center continues to be well rented, with \$18,000 revenue to date. With upcoming party and graduation rentals, an additional \$6,000 is anticipated this spring. A new rooftop unit was installed and the new HVAC is working like a charm. All of our kitchen appliances have been replaced as well. Funds have also been budgeted to remove the bookcases and cover the cinderblock walls with sheetrock. This will be done in-house by Highway to be cost-efficient. It was mentioned that the Community Center needs to be cleaned between "same day" rentals. All renters are responsible for leaving the Community Center clean after use, or they lose their \$250 deposit.

It was suggested that a reminder about this policy be posted on myrec. Rec Dept is working on getting an additional cleaning service between “same day” bookings.

“Life Skill” Students:

It was suggested that Rec events allot some separate time for “Life Skill” student sessions. Lower lighting and noise levels are needed. For example, the Firemen’s Carnival could hold a quieter session for these children and their families, perhaps on a separate day. The new Special Ed PTA could be consulted about this idea.

AMS Students:

It was noted that only a few AMS students are using Pascone Park for after school games, and they are gathering downtown at local shops instead. It was suggested that rather than game tables such as Air Hockey, Rec provide AMS students with a big screen TV for gaming, and possibly a gaming chair so they can gather at the Community Center.

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 12 at 5 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Lorraine Kuhn