

Ardsley Parks & Recreation

November 12, 2019

The November 12th Parks & Recreation meeting began at 5 PM. In attendance were Trish Lacy, Steve Edelstein, Gina Goldstein, Lorraine Kuhn and Dave Whitehead.

Atousa Ashtiani and Kathy Nejad, Ardsley residents, were present as our guests.

Ardsley Parks & Recreation sends sincere condolences to the Carvel family on the loss of their granddaughter Chrissie Douglas.

Old Business:

Octoberfest:

Trish reports that our first Annual Octoberfest was a big hit with lots of food trucks, great music, face painting, balloons, games and activities for young and old. There were over 500 people attending. Trish thanks all who helped out and volunteered.

Fall Garage Sale:

There were 27 tables and good weather, but Trish says that spring may be the better time for this event. There was some interest in the food trucks. Lorraine said that maybe just coffee is needed in the fall.

Trunk or Treat:

Our first Annual Trunk or Treat was a huge success with about 100 children in the parade from AMS, and several hundred more visiting the cars for candy throughout the event. There were 13 car trunks filled with candy. Trish thanks Ardsley Highway, Police, Fire, Ambulance Corps and everyone who volunteered to decorate their trunks and hand out candy.

Fall Programs:

Trish reports that fall programs are coming to an end.

Community Center Roof:

Trish said that Donald Brown Roofing did an excellent job replacing the roof in September and we have a 10 year warranty. She said they provide very responsive service when needed. Lorraine asked about the back closet, and Trish said that the leaks have been repaired.

Upcoming Programs:

Seniors:

This month Seniors will have jewelry and flower making activities. Zumba will be at the end of the month. We might add a second day per week, from 12 to 2 PM. Nick might run a Movie Day.

Chess Class:

A new 8 week Chess program will be starting soon.

Youth Basketball:

Trish says the Basketball Coaches draft meeting is next Wednesday Nov 20th at 7 PM at the Community Center. We currently have 66 boys and girls enrolled. Gina asked what grades and Trish said 3rd to 6th grades. Trish said we could use some more volunteers. The program starts the week of Dec 2nd.

Open Gym Basketball:

Age 16 & Up Open Gym starts Nov 26th at AHS small gym and runs from 8 to 10 PM on Tuesdays. Over 40 Open Gym starts Dec 5th at AHS small gym and runs from 8 to 10 PM on Thursdays.

Christmas Tree Lighting:

Our Annual Tree Lighting is scheduled for Sat Dec 7th at 6 PM. We will meet at the Firehouse at 6 PM and walk down to Legion Park. Following the tree lighting, all are invited to the Community Center for coffee, cocoa, tea, cakes and cookies. Music will be provided by AHS Select Chorus with Director Spencer Smith. Dave's daughter will be part of the Chorus this year. "Santa" will be on hand, as will Nora the Balloon Lady, and AHS Key Club. Trish would appreciate baked goods from volunteers. Gina asked if we ever had carolers at the Tree Lighting. She said she had fun caroling when she lived in Brooklyn, and we may want to try it.

Tennis Courts:

Trish says that the Tennis Courts look good. They are due to be painted in the spring.

New Business:

Summer Concerts:

Trish says that all the Concerts will be on Fridays this coming summer, and they will all have food trucks. Akram has helped to get the food truck paperwork organized making the process easier. She said we may try a concert at Bicentennial Park. Dave asked about renting the Greenburgh Mobile Stage. Steve suggested that maybe we need to get a new sound system. Dave said there is a built-in stage at Dobbs Ferry and the Wednesday Jazz Concert series was great.

5K Races:

Gina asked about having 5K races, with shorter races or biking for children. Dave said that SAYF Coalition sponsors a 5K, but they have had weather problems recently. Lorraine said that Parks & Rec used to have a 5K from Pascone to AHS, with a 1K Fun Run for children at the Park. Westchester Roadrunners did official timing and participated in the race. Steve said that Abe Falek would be interested in this event. Dave said the route should be changed so it would be less steep.

AMS Student Activities:

Kathy asked if there could be more appealing activities for 7th & 8th graders at the Community Center. Trish said they could have movies. Kathy asked about getting pool, air hockey and foosball tables. Trish said we used to have them, and we even had a Ping Pong League. Atousa asked if we could provide food and Trish said that our Youth Advocate brings in pizza. Atousa asked if we could get an ice cream machine. Trish said we used to have vending machines at the Community Center. Gina said that it would be nice to have activities that are not tech-driven, and that dance parties would be a good idea. Trish mentioned that one of the parents of a Homework Helper student is a DJ and might be willing to help out. Gina asked when we should put in ideas for next spring, and Trish said that now is the time to begin budget requests, that they are due at the end of January. Kathy asked if Friday activities could be extended to include 5th & 6th graders.

Capital Projects:

Community Center Upgrades:

Trish said more storage is needed and we may use the small meeting room. The windows would be blacked out and a new lock would be put on the door. Dave said maybe we could knock through to the other closet and move that entry door to the east side wall. Atousa said it might be nice to make the room into a Yoga studio. Kathy wondered if we could add a second floor. Dave said the Firehouse design is great. Steve suggested asking some designers who serve on the ARB for some design help. Trish said our cleaning service does a good job, but we need them to work very late evening or very

early morning hours when Rec programs are not running. Steve said we should let the Village Manager know about the need for a cleaning schedule adjustment.

Pascone Park Upgrades:

Trish asked whether we should knock down the Snack Bar building. Steve said new bathrooms were in the 2020-21 plan. Dave said there is still some communication equipment in the attic. Lorraine said a shelter is definitely needed and suggested solar panels for a new building. Dave said it could be a “green” building like the O’Hara Nature Center in Irvington. Steve said the new building should have a water bottle filler. Kathy suggested all weather outdoor Ping Pong and Foosball tables under an adjoining roof. Dave said it could be designed like the Ardsley Swim Club overhanging roof. Trish thought about building a new pavilion, and Dave suggested the ones at Ridge Rd Park. He said it might be nice to have grills. Lorraine said we used to have small grills at Pascone Pk. Gina asked if we needed a reservation system for using the pavilion. Dave said it would be good for bands and movies, and we might even consider moving the gazebo.

Steve said the spray bays and repaving are in the plan for 2021-22. Water source is located at the entrance to the parking lot. There was discussion about locating the spray bays on the east side of the gazebo or the north side of the Snack Bar.

Atousa asked if we could have a dog park at Pascone. Trish will contact Larry Tomasso regarding Village Code regulations about dogs in Village of Ardsley parks. Dave said there was a dog park at Kingsland Point in Tarrytown and at Rumbrook in Greenburgh. He said in Cape Cod they have nice dog parks with sand and riverstone surfaces. He suggested that there might be room near the Softball Field, or the gazebo near Ashford Ave. Steve said that fencing near Ashford Ave would have to be attractive. Steve suggested that Rec Comm take a field trip to Pascone Park to check out sites.

McDowell Park Upgrades:

Steve said that the McDowell Park Basketball Court could use an upgrade. Dave said that the pavilion was in need of work, too. Also, the Field 4 parking lot and entry roadway need work.

Next Meeting: Tuesday December 10 at 5 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Lorraine Kuhn