

Ardsley Parks & Recreation

January 14, 2020

The January 14th Parks & Recreation meeting began at 5 PM. In attendance were Trish Lacy, Steve Edelstein, Gina Goldstein, Lorraine Kuhn, Maya Sheehan and Dave Whitehead. Rec Comm welcomes new member Abe Falek.

Mayor Kaboolian stopped by to thank Rec Comm members for their service to the Village. She reminded us that the Village of Ardsley will celebrate its 125th Anniversary in 2021. She also asked us to consider selecting sites in Pascone Park for relocation of the plaques from the American Legion building. Plaques will need to be mounted in concrete.

Minutes from the November 12, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously. They will be posted on the Recreation Commission webpage.

Old Business:

Christmas Tree Lighting:

Trish reports that the Tree Lighting was a huge success. There were approximately 200 people in attendance. She thanks the Ardsley Highway, Police and Fire Departments, Key Club, Spencer Smith and AHS Select Chorus and Santa!

Youth Basketball:

The season started last week and Trish says we have 9 teams and about 95 kids registered. Ardsley has the most teams entered in the League.

Open Gym:

Both Open Gym programs are running smoothly with about 25 players each week. The programs run on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Trish says that there are many programs running and getting gym space can be difficult, but we continue to have a cooperative relationship with Ardsley School District and we work out the space issues.

Winter Chess Program:

Winter Chess is running right now. Trish says that the instructor does a great job with the students and that they even go to Chess Tournaments at Iona College. Maya asked if the instructor does birthday party events and Trish said that he does.

Winter Yoga Program:

Trish says this 6 week program is running well.

Youth Advocate:

Trish reports that Homework Helpers is running on Wednesdays and AMS students attending are showing scholastic improvement. Friday AMS Drop-in is running and at least 10 students attend every Friday.

Upcoming Programs:

Seniors:

Seniors will be having their Annual Breakfast on January 29th at the Community Center. Two computers have now been installed in the Community Center Conference Room for use by our Seniors. Trish is arranging for computer lessons.

Lunar New Year Celebration:

Our Multicultural, Diversity and Inclusion Committee will be hosting the 2nd Annual Lunar New Year Celebration at the Community Center on Saturday January 25th from 2 to 4 PM. There will be food and activities.

Community Center DJ & Movies:

Trish is planning programs for kids at the Community Center. DJ Events will be for 5th through 8th grades. DJs will have music and light shows. She has contacted "Rooney Tunes". Cost is \$300 for a 2 hour event. Trish is planning Movies for 1st through 4th grades. Dates and times to be scheduled.

Little League Opening Day:

Little League Opening Day is April 5th. Abe suggested that since the roads are already closed for the Parade that day, perhaps we can schedule some additional events. Trish said there are games that day. Dave said we could contact Zach Murtha, LL President, to find out about scheduling for that day.

5K Race & Family Fun Run:

Gina would like to schedule a 5K Race and Family Fun Run sometime in May. She said it would be nice to have medals awarded and maybe a food truck. She said we could have shorter distances and different routes for children. Steve said that we used to run the race between AHS and Pascone Park, alternating between starting points. Lorraine said we used to contract with Westchester Road Runner to help with the race. Gina said it would be good to plan some new routes, and Dave agreed that a less hilly route would be good. Lorraine said we could look at a Village map at the next meeting.

CEAC Earth Day Events:

Steve says that CEAC is planning a planting event for Earth Day on April 22nd. Volunteers will plant the circle at the entrance to Pascone Park.

Summer Concerts-in-the-Park:

Trish is planning to have all concerts scheduled for Fridays this summer. She would like to have 5 concerts. Maya asked for the dates so she could plan the food trucks. Trish said that the first concert is on June 26th the same day as the Ice Cream Social, so maybe we will have the food trucks for the other 4 dates. Dave said that food trucks are great for attracting people to the concerts. Gina said that we should keep the Food Truck Festival special, not have too many trucks on other dates. She said that maybe we should add a spring date. She said maybe we could have spring (Family 5K Run), summer (July concert) and fall (Oktoberfest) events with food trucks. Trish mentioned that we may change the beer supplier for Oktoberfest to Captain Lawrence or some other supplier.

New Business:**Recreation Department Budget:**

The Recreation Department Budget is due on January 29th. Trish says that there is \$2200 left in the 2019-20 budget to be spent out before May 31, 2020. Dave said that about \$1000 is needed for a PA system, including microphones. He said that most bands do not have sufficient PA equipment when they play Gazebo concerts. Steve agreed and said the Oktoberfest and Climate Rally sound needed improvement. Dave said it may be possible to rent the County Sound Stage for \$1000 for events. Maya said a movie screen is needed and Trish said that we need a new projector, too. Trish may also purchase a new garbage shed and 40 additional chairs with a chair rack for the Community Center with remaining funds.

Community Center:

Steve said that a new floor and HVAC system were part of the 2020-21 Capital Plan. Steve said that we might be able to start improvements this year. He said that two members of Ardsley Board of Architectural Review have graciously offered to help with designing. Trish said a new stove and refrigerator were also needed and she has included those items as part of the 2020-21 budget request.

Pascone Park Installations:

Trish may purchase a water bottle filler for \$3700. She said it can be winterized by taking out the valve and storing it. She has also researched concrete table tennis, chess tables and corn hole boards for installation. Steve said that our Village Manager has contacted County Planning Department for help in developing a plan for Pascone Park. He said that game installations, new bathrooms and the spray bay could be planned this year and perhaps implemented next year.

Dog Park:

Trish checked with Larry Tomasso and it does not appear that the Village Code contains any ordinance against having a Dog Park in Pascone Park, even though the Park currently has signage prohibiting dogs. Steve commented that it would likely be a space issue trying to find a suitable location in the Park.

Tennis Courts:

Trish said the Tennis Courts will probably be done by late April or early May, completed by Sportec. Steve said that new lighting will be a Capital Plan. Lorraine suggested that there be a master lighting plan which would include the Basketball Court and possibly the Softball Field. Dave will research the Little League price. He estimated that it was about \$150K and LED lights were used.

Softball Field:

Trish plans to close down the Softball Field in mid-August so that Greener World can repair the outfield. Abe asked if Greener World had done McDowell and Trish said that they had done the Little League work. They will bring in about 80 tons of soil. The outfield lip needs repair, too. Trish may put a snow fence around the field to keep it closed. Dave mentioned that Irvington HS had used “environmentally-friendly” turf for their field, which includes coconut fiber, and it drains better than regular turf fields. He didn’t know the Irvington price, but said that the Tuckahoe turf field cost \$250K about 10 years ago.

McDowell Park:

Steve said that the road back to Field #4 needs improvement. Abe mentioned that McDowell Park is dark at night and it would be good to improve the lighting for the walkways, parking lot and basketball court.

AMS Sign:

Dave asked about the new sign at the entrance to Pascone Park. Steve said that this area is Village property and Ardsley School District needs Village approval before they can finish installing the sign. He added that there will be planting at the site on Earth Day.

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 11th at 5 PM

Respectfully submitted:
Lorraine Kuhn