

**Ardsley Parks & Recreation**  
**December 14, 2021**

The December 16<sup>th</sup> Parks & Recreation meeting began at 5 PM. In attendance were Trish Lacy, Craig Weitz, Abe Falek, Gina Goldstein, and Lorraine Kuhn.

Rec Comm thanks Steve Edelstein for his service as liaison, and welcomes Craig Weitz as our new Village Board liaison.

Minutes from the November 16, 2021 meeting were approved.  
They will be posted on the Recreation Commission webpage.

**Old Business:**

**Annual Tree Lighting:**

Trish reports that our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting was a huge success, with over 200 people attending. We thank Ardsley Fire Department for offering their space at the Firehouse. We would like to return there next year for the event. Trish thanks Ardsley Police Department, especially Officer Johnny Goldstein for playing Santa and Officer Tony Vacca for all his help. Thank you to Highway Dept for the beautiful lighting and help with the event. And thank you to Spencer Smith and Ardsley High School Select Chorus.

**Adult Open Gym:**

Trish says Open Gym started last Thursday night and is running smoothly. There are 24 adults signed up. Facility arrangement has worked out and players are able to use 2 baskets on the court.

**Youth Basketball:**

Trish worked very hard to fill all the coach positions, and the program had its first week of practice with no issues to report. There are 110 girls and boys registered in this popular program.

**Homework Helpers:**

Our Youth Advocate Marissa Caldarola is running this program on Wednesdays after school at the Community Center. It has become very well attended, with 10 to 12 AMS students coming in for help and several AHS students volunteering as tutors.

**Friday Open Rec:**

Friday Open Rec is going well, also run by our Youth Advocate. There are 20 to 25 students each week. Gina asked what ages, and Trish said 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Trish is in the process of purchasing a few more portable games, pool table, ping pong table, safety dart boards and other items which will be stored in the small Conference Room so the students can use them.

**Upcoming Programs:**

**Indoor Sports:**

Trish met with Jack Lyons, Director of Metro Sports, to discuss programming, and she is happy to report that we will be offering "Intro to Sports" for 2 and 3 year olds at the Community Center. The program will run on late mornings during the week. She is working on the schedule of classes, and we will be starting the program soon. Gina commented that this should fit well with nursery school since that generally runs ½ days.

**Virtual Rec Contests:**

Trish is running the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Indoor/Outdoor Holiday House Decorating Contest and a new Gingerbread House Decorating Contest, details on myrec. Deadline for submission of entries is

December 22<sup>nd</sup> for both contests. Winners receive \$25 gift cards. We have received 2 Gingerbread House entries so far.

### **Seniors:**

Seniors made Holiday wreaths last week with Nick. Their Holiday Christmas Party is tomorrow at the Firehouse from 3 to 5 PM, catered by Cucina Restaurant. Trish will hand out masks for all participants.

### **5K Race:**

Gina asked about the timeline for the 5K Race. Trish said she is meeting with Officer Tony Vacca and SAYF Coalition Coordinator Theresa DelGrosso to help set up the race. Craig mentioned that Village Attorney Ponzini has advised the Village not to have sponsors. Abe said that in Dobbs Ferry, it is the Youth Services Council that runs the race, not the municipality, so they are able to have sponsors. Gina said that having PBA and SAYF help out should be okay. Abe said it might be better to work with just one organization. Gina suggested a clever theme, "Running Out of Time", since the race will coincide with Earth Week. She would like to have a meeting specifically to organize the event in January. She said that if we cannot address the fund raising idea, maybe it could just be a Fun Run this time.

### **New Business:**

#### **Enrichment Program:**

Trish says that a former Ardsley High School teacher is interested in running an Enrichment Program at the Community Center on Saturday mornings. Gina asked about the program content. Trish said she is meeting after the holidays to discuss further details.

#### **Community Center Rentals:**

Abe asked who typically rents the Community Center. Trish said there are a lot of non-Village rentals, but rentals by Village of Ardsley residents have been increasingly substantially lately. Gina asked what part of the Center is rented, and Trish said that the whole place is rented. Lorraine added that there is a no alcohol policy. Craig said the rental schedule should be posted on myrec. Trish said she still finds it convenient to keep a calendar in the Rec Office for quick reference. Craig asked who monitors rentals, and Trish explained that renters must go to the Ardsley Police Station, give their Driver's License for the Police to hold on to, and then they get a key to open the Community Center. Renters must pay a deposit fee. Trish inspects the Community Center after rentals, and the deposit is returned to the renter's credit card as long as the Center is left in good condition.

#### **Community Center Services & Maintenance:**

Craig asked what kind of streaming services were available at the Community Center, and said that new services could be added. Trish said she would like to have Friday night DJ events. She said that the roof has been repaired and that the HVAC system is due to be replaced in 2023.

#### **New Rec Comm Liaison Updates:**

Craig said that the Village Board is prioritizing "sprucing up" the parks. They plan to get professional bids for designing the parks, and work is to be done over the next 3 to 5 years. Pascone Park would gain amenities similar to those at Gould Park in Dobbs Ferry. McDowell Park spaces would be shared for other uses, including more playground space. Gina said this would be good for siblings of the Baseball players. Craig said lighting the commuter parking lot and Basketball Court is a good idea. Village Board will be getting quotes for installing turf at Pascone Park Softball Field to increase its usability. Trish said she just spent \$17K for the outfield maintenance. She asked about the Tennis Bubble proposal and Craig said that Village Attorney Ponzini was not supportive of Public Private Partnership arrangements. Trish said that she got 30 tennis permits last year, and Ardsley only has 4 tennis courts. Craig said that the Tennis Courts need lights. Trish said that the Softball Field needs lights too. Craig said that the Village would be better off if the Village took care of these matters. Abe liked the ideas for McDowell Park, and said that we could schedule outdoor dances and movies there. Lorraine said that

Little League helps with the maintenance at McDowell, and Craig said that Ardsley DPW maintains the roads and parking lots. Trish said that DPW mows the fields.

Next Meeting: Tuesday January 11 at 5 PM

Respectfully submitted:  
Lorraine Kuhn