

Ardsley Parks & Recreation
September 13, 2022

The September 13th Parks & Recreation meeting began at 5 PM. In attendance were Trish Lacy, Abe Falek, Christina Hansbury, Lorraine Kuhn, Mona Swanson and Dave Whitehead.

Minutes from the June 15, 2022 meeting were approved.
They will be posted on the Recreation Commission webpage.

Welcome to our new Youth Advocate Amanda Casey!

Old Business:

Tennis Tournament:

This past weekend we ran our Tennis Tournament and we had 50 players! The Tournament consisted of Women's Doubles, Men's Doubles and Mixed Doubles. Everything went very well and fun was had by all. Many thanks to Mona Swanson and Ayo Obi for all of their hard work to make this event a great success. Thank you to Highway Dept for setting up the bleachers and getting extra benches, and all their help with the Tournament. It was suggested that next year we may give out visors and towels. Tennis Courts will get new windscreens on the north and south sides in the next budget season.

Back-to-School Movie-in-the-Park:

Our Back-to-School Movie-in-the-Park was on September 9th, and it was a big success with over 100 children enjoying this fun event. Everything ran smoothly.

Seniors:

Nick continues to do a great job running programs for Seniors including movies, Musical Oldies Bingo with Alan at Event DJ, barbecues, flower making crafts, and trips to local restaurants. Twenty Seniors recently went on the trip to Lombardo's and they had a terrific time.

Youth Advocate:

We welcome our new Youth Advocate Amanda Casey! She will be starting up Homework Helpers and Drop in Rec very soon, and she is already busy meeting the students at school.

Upcoming Programs:

Welcome Back Ardsley:

Welcome Back Ardsley will be celebrated on Saturday Sept 17th from 3 to 7 PM at Pascone Park. There will be 5 food trucks, DJ, "Touch-a-Truck" with DPW, ASVAC & Fire Dept, DeCiccio's Beer & Wine Tent, Blow up Wet/Dry Slide, Air Brush Tattoos, Balloon Lady and the famous Bubble Bus. Nineteen Ardsley Local Organizations will have tables displaying information, and some will have giveaways and merchandise for sale. The Village is supplying 30 tables and 50 chairs for use by these groups.

Firemen's Carnival:

Our Firemen's Carnival will be at Pascone Park from Sept 21st to Sept 25th. Rec Comm members are looking forward to the rides, games and tasty Carnival treats.

Village Garage Sale:

Our popular Village Garage Sale returns to Pascone Park on October 8th. Rain date is October 15th.

Fall Parks & Rec Programs:

Fall programs are set to begin at the end of September/early October. Sign ups have begun. Program & Event flyers with QR codes were handed out at Concord Road. We are offering Tennis classes, private Tennis lessons, Chess classes, Pee Wee Soccer, Grit Ninja, Defensive Driving course, Multi-sport Squirts, Kickball and Adult Open Gym Basketball.

New programs being offered:

Coding & Video Game Design for grades 2 – 4 on Mondays at the Community Center from 3:30 to 4:30PM.

Nory Robotics for grades 2 – 4 on Mondays at the Community Center from 4:45 to 5:45 PM.

Westchester Music for Aardvarks Classes for ages 6 months to 5 years old on Mondays at the Community Center at 10 AM.

Rec Comm members asked about the new music school Riverrock Music. They may rent the Community Center for recital sessions.

New Business:

Master Parks Plan:

There will be Zoom Focus Group meetings starting at the end of September to get feedback from a variety of different people in the Village. Several Rec Comm members will be part of the Focus Groups. There was discussion about ideas and requests. A high end pavilion. Barbecues, walking path, spray bay and lighting for the Tennis Courts and Softball Field were proposed. Pickle Ball may be added to the Tennis Courts, and Trish is already working on this. It was suggested that the Pickle Ball lines be painted in blue, so as not to distract Tennis players. A wall for Paddle Ball was suggested. Adequate power for speakers and electronic equipment and more widespread access to water at Pascone Park was mentioned. It was noted the LED lighting system at McDowell is excellent, with convenient controls. A Dog Park was suggested, and it was noted that a new one just opened in Irvington. A request for a swimming pool was mentioned. Rec Comm member asked if there was already a Park Plan in place. Regular maintenance is performed at Village parks, but the Master Plan will be the new plan. It was suggested that the Plan include upgrades to playground materials. It was noted that the Master Plan consultant should be made aware of all Village municipal properties for potential recreation use. Parcel Q and other properties should be considered for Parks & Rec use. It was asked if the process would take several years, but preparation of the Master Plan is expected to be on a faster timetable, perhaps months. Rec Comm members thought that the Community Center should be upgraded as part of the Master Plan. WiFi needs to be improved at the Community Center. Some new events such as Winter Sledding and Skating with hot chocolate were proposed. It was noted that in the past, AMS rink and an area at McDowell Park were flooded and frozen for skating and hockey. Rec Comm members suggested upgrading or replacing the Snack Bar at Pascone Park. It was mentioned that snack bars at local swim clubs serve food. It was suggested that the Snack Bar at Pascone Park could return to being a student after-school destination.

Next Meeting: Tuesday Oct 11 at 5 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Lorraine Kuhn