

Ardsley Parks & Recreation
February 14, 2023

The February 14th Parks & Recreation meeting began at 5 PM. In attendance were Trish Lacy, Andy DiJusto, Abe Falek, Lorraine Kuhn, Mona Swanson and Dave Whitehead. Minutes from the January 10, 2023 meeting were approved and will be posted on the Recreation Commission webpage.

Old Business:

Youth Basketball:

Youth Basketball continues to run smoothly. Season goes until March.

Open Gym:

Open Gym program is up to 35 people registered, running Thursday nights at the small AHS gym. There were questions about whether the Village must pay for use of the gym and other school facilities. It was explained that the Ardsley School District uses some Village facilities, such as Pascone Softball Field, so there is reciprocity between the Village and the School District and no billing for facilities is involved.

Winter Chess:

Winter Chess has just started its 2nd winter session, with 30 students enrolled. A third class has been added on Thursdays for children with no chess experience at all. There was a question about whether adults could sign up, and it was suggested that interested adults may contact Mr. Kan. Chess tournaments are being considered. They may have 100 people so Ardsley School lunchrooms may be good venues for these events.

Video Game Coding & Lego Robotics:

These two new programs take place on Mondays and enrollment is full at 15 students per class.

Winter Gaga Ball:

Indoor Gaga Ball is a huge hit with the kids. There are 15 participants, and the indoor setup works fine at the Community Center.

Indoor Multi Sport Squirts:

There are 3 classes running on Saturday mornings at 9, 10 and 11 AM at the Community Center, and the children are having a great time. There are 25 participating, we are in our 4th week. Multi Sports will return to Pascone Park in the spring. There was a question about running a program at Pascone Park for challenged children, perhaps once a month. There may be a possible music event, which would include headphones for special needs students. Trish will be meeting with DJ Al next week regarding this idea, and will also get in touch with Noreen Degnan who runs the Special Needs School Program.

Adult Zumba:

There are 17 participants in the new Adult Zumba class which runs on Mondays at the Community Center. Everyone enrolled loves this program.

Seniors:

The Seniors are busy this month. They have Musical Bingo and Pizza. Tomorrow they are going to Rudy's for lunch in New Jersey. Next upcoming event is Flower Making at the Community Center on Feb 22nd.

Youth Advocate:

Our Youth Advocate continues to run a very successful Homework Helpers program on Wednesdays and Open Rec on Fridays.

Upcoming Programs:

Language Class:

Trish is working on setting up a new Language Class program for children ages 3 to 9 years old. She is finalizing dates and times with the instructor. Spanish language classes will be offered.

Pollinator Pathway/Garden Club:

Pollinator Pathway/Garden Club will be hosting a Spring Garden Festival at the Community Center on Saturday March 12th from 12:00 to 4:30 PM.

5K Race:

Our 2nd Annual 5K Race is coming up on Sunday May 7th. We will start the race route at Concord Road School and continuing through side streets. This route is safer by staying off main roads.

Pickle Ball:

Trish is getting proposals for painting one or two of the Tennis Courts so that they may also be used for Pickle Ball. It was asked if a new net is needed, and answered that the existing Tennis Court net can be used. It is also possible to set up on the Basketball Court, and a net for this could be stored at the Softball Field trailer.

Parks Master Plan:

The initial public outreach phase and assessment of the existing parks programs and parks facilities has been completed. A draft proposal will be presented to the Village Board at a work session on Wednesday. Presentation to the public will be scheduled soon.

New Business:

Wellness Day:

There was discussion about having a Wellness Day event at Pascone Park. Suggestions for this event included Pilates class, Massage clinic, Dance class, Boxing demo, Juice truck, Veterinarian clinic and ASVAC outreach. There would be outreach to local businesses for participation in these activities. Other features of the event might include bounce castle and other blowups for children.

Community Center Programs:

It was mentioned that the Community Center needs a podium for speakers at meetings. Also, it was noted that the cell phone reception is poor, likely due to the fact that the cell tower was removed from the RSA building and that there was interference on the South County Trailway tower due to hawk nesting.

Some new programs were suggested. It was mentioned that Honest Art is doing well as a new business, and perhaps an Arts & Crafts program could be offered at the Community Center, too. Pizza/Bingo nights for teens was also suggested. Trish is thinking of starting a Drumming Class run by the new local business RiverRock. Mah Jongg was proposed as an activity, and it was noted that it would be nice to have games at the air conditioned Community Center in the summer. Trish asked if it could be scheduled during the day between 12 and 3 PM. There was a question about cards, and answered that Mah Jongg cards are about \$10. Trish said a former Mah Jongg teacher was Asprea Rose.

Additional Park Lands:

The possibility of cleaning up the end of Revere Road adjacent to Concord Road School to create a recreational area was discussed. It was noted that it might provide a running path or new student path for walking to school. The new project involving using excess soil from Highway Garage construction to level and fill in the area west of Field #4 was discussed. A large potential recreational plot of land has now been opened up. This may facilitate plans to create the trailway connection between McDowell and Pascone Parks.

Next Meeting: Tuesday March 14 at 5 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Lorraine Kuhn