

Ardasley Parks & Recreation
March 21, 2023

The March 21st Parks & Recreation meeting began at 5 PM. In attendance were Trish Lacy, Andy DiJusto, Gina Goldstein, Christina Hansbury, Lorraine Kuhn, Alka Shukla, Mona Swanson and Dave Whitehead. Minutes from the February 14, 2023 meeting will be posted on the Recreation Commission webpage.

Old Business:

Youth Basketball:

Youth Basketball had another successful season. There were no problems. Thank you to Wayne Bass for accommodating some players in the White Plains league.

Spring Classes:

There were 300 participants registered in Winter programs, which are now coming to an end. Spring registration has started and all classes are set to start in April.

Facilities Report:

The Community Center continues to be well rented, and to date, we have had 61 rentals totaling over \$18,000. Rentals included 27 residents, and 34 non-residents. There was a question about alcohol policy and it was answered that alcohol is not permitted at Community Center events.

Parks Report:

To date, park rental income is over \$13,000 and is expected to increase in the spring season. There is a growing Cricket player population and the coming Pickle Ball court will increase rentals. A Travel Softball Team has just booked time at Pascone Park Field. It was mentioned that McDowell Field #3 be used for Modified Baseball. Cricket is scheduled for 4 to 6 PM on Saturdays. Ardsley DPW has suggested that we start out with lining one Tennis Court for Pickle Ball use. Date for lining is upcoming.

Seniors:

Our Seniors continue to have a busy schedule. This month there were Movie Matinees, Musical Bingo, Flower Making and a trip to Rory Dolan's.

Youth Advocate:

Our Youth Advocate is running strong Homework Helper and Friday Open Rec programs, very well attended with at least 15 students participating every week. She continues to offer outreach sessions for parents to be apprised of their children's progress and activities.

Upcoming Programs:

Egg Hunt:

The Parks & Recreation and Police Departments will be co-hosting our 6th Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 1st at McDowell Field #1 at 7PM sharp. We are having a brand-new event under the lights. There will be a DJ and 22 gold eggs. Children bring their own Easter Baskets.

Holi Celebration:

Multicultural Diversity & Inclusion Committee will host a Holi Celebration at Pascone Parks on Sunday April 23rd from 10 AM to 2 PM. Dance practice is being held at the Community Center on Sunday March 26th.

5K Race:

Our 2nd Annual 5K Race is coming up on Sunday May 7th. The registration link has been posted on myrec. It directs to the Chronotrack registration webpage. This year we are changing the race route, and we will now start and finish the race at Concord Road Elementary School. This route allows runners to stay off major roadways and is much safer for all. A race map is being prepared and will be posted soon. It was mentioned that the last Village race was held in October 2022. There was a

question about resident vehicle traffic and answered that Ardsley Police will be on hand to help with traffic.

Food Truck Friday:

We will be having our popular Food Truck Friday event on May 12 from 5 to 9 PM at Pascone Park. We will have five food trucks including pizza and burgers, and an ice cream truck. A Soul Food truck was suggested. Saw Mill Tavern will host a Beer Tent. There will be music at 7 PM by Anthony Giaccio's band "Bad Art". An exciting new activity will be the Slimemobile, and there will be fireworks.

Park Maintenance:

Greener World will be coming next week to condition Pascone Park Softball Field for the season. It was mentioned that a new L-screen is needed. A new wind screen will be installed at the Tennis Courts.

New Business:

Village Budget Items:

Tr. DiJusto said that Village Budget Work Sessions are still in progress, and he wanted input from the Recreation Commission on budget requests. There is an upcoming Budget meeting at the Community Center. Budget will be finalized in a month. An Assistant for our Recreation Supervisor was proposed. Funding for events like 5K and activities like Slimemobile is needed. Additional funding for Multicultural programs was requested. New park programs for Challenged Youth are needed. The Challenged Youth programs need participation from parents & families, and personnel with special training. One-to-one pairing with High School students was suggested. Concerts with noise-dampening headphones might be scheduled. Funding for other types of special events is needed. There were questions about Con Ed property on Heatherdell Road, and whether the property west of our new DPW Garage would be restored. Recently landfilled property west of McDowell Field #4 and Parcel Q were mentioned.

A new audio visual system including microphone and projection screen were suggested for the Community Center. There was a question about the projector for the Park and answered that it is shared by the Recreation and Police Departments. A podium was suggested as being useful, including a Public Address system. It was said that a good quality item be purchased, cost estimated a several thousand dollars, but less than \$5000. An upcoming expense for the Community Center is an HVAC system at about \$25,000. It was suggested that a drop-down screen be installed at the Community Center, like the one at Village Hall. A speaker party box was also suggested, with LED lights. Use by renters would be regulated to prevent damage. Having a good projector was thought to possibly help with rentals, and we might be able to increase rental fees. It could possibly be used for Art Salon events, for example. A "smart" TV, suggested 75" diameter, is needed for the Community Center. This may be preferred to a projector which needs bulbs, costing more money for maintenance. It was estimated that upgrade to a 75" TV monitor, projector and speaker system would cost about \$5000. A pull-down screen 100" size would be \$130, while 150" would be \$650. It was said that microphones could be built into the party box. Cheaper Bluetooth microphones could be made available to renters to cut damage expense. It was mentioned that we would need secure storage, possibly a cart with a security system. Currently, movies at Pascone Park are shown by a rental service, which is very cost effective at \$250 which includes placement of a blow-up screen and projection services.

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 11 at 5 PM

Respectfully submitted:

Lorraine Kuhn