

**THE CITY OF WHITE PLAINS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2021
MINUTES**

Attendance

Present

Honorable Jennifer Puja, Chairwoman
Commissioner Wayne Bass Deputy Commissioner Fran Croughan
Charles Morgan Evelyn Santiago
Dr. Richard Sanchez Michele Schoenfeld
Jonathan Schere Kevin Scully
Dr. Randy Stein Leonard Gruenfeld

Absent

Christoper Kent
Frank Williams Caroline Furry

Commissioner Bass presided over Zoom meeting. The following was discussed:

Minutes

The meeting were read and approved. Motion to accept: Michele Schoenfeld, seconded: Evelyn Santiago.

Old Business

Santa Drive-By

Commissioner Bass reported the following: The Santa drive-by event was very successful. Two trucks/two Santas's were used to drive through the various neighborhoods throughout the City. It took a total of 3 hours for each truck to finish the routes. There were neighborhoods anxiously waiting for Santa while in some other neighborhoods not as much. This should be an annual program and expect it to be better next year with more advertising. Commissioner Bass asked Mr. Morgan to help the Department with doing outreach to the community as it relates to promoting events and programs.

Ebersole Ice Rink

Rink sessions continue to sell out, albeit at a capacity of 90 participants. Resident Only sessions were added during the Public Sessions during the week to help provide more opportunity for residents to get in on the fun. We were getting a lot of out of towners coming to the rink and lining up hours before we opened. Commissioner Bass and Deputy Commissioner Croughan informed committee of Community Development help with securing funds to cover the cost of a 30' x 30' tent to provide shelter during bad weather as skaters are required to put on their skates outside due to covid guidelines. The tents will also serve as shade in the summer for camps and as a program space for activities such as arts & crafts, chess, board games, etc.

Winter Guide and Programs

Deputy Commissioner Croughan stated staff did a great job with guide and working during COVID. The Guide was prepared by Wayne, Fran and Matt Quatrano at a great savings. The Department is creating a Spring/Summer Guide in similar fashion. The guide will go on-line in March and will not be mailed to households.
This is a tremendous savings cost to the City.

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Capital Plan 2021-22

Capital Plan was approved by Project Board and has been forwarded to the Common Council for approval at the February meeting. **Delfino Park Pavilion/Basketball Court**-\$500,000 funding through a SAM Grant work scheduled to begin in the late spring/summer. **Delfino Park Picnic Area Improvement** Community Development/Planning Dept. will assist with \$170,000 to replace pavers and improve sidewalks/entrance way into the plaza area. The **Gardella Pool Design**- \$150,000 is pending approval of an updated School District Facility Use Agreement which is being worked on.

2021-22 Projects –Renaissance Fountain Park- \$200,000 to repair walkway and replace existing pavers. **Battle of White Plains Park Playground Replacement** - \$450,000 construction of a new playground and toddler play area. Mr. Morgan question plans to renovate Battle Hill Tennis Courts. Commissioner stated it would be considered when plans are put together for the entire park. Mr. Schere asked if there are plans for a new bus for the Community Center in the plan. Answer: YES, the current bus will become backup, previous bus will be auctioned.

Chairwoman Puja stated her organization may donate a picnic tables to a project where needed as they have in the past at Gardella Park, Liberty Park, Druss Park and Battle Hill Park. Commissioner stated the Battle of White Plains Park is in need of benches and Deputy Commissioner Croughan recommended picnic tables as a great park asset.

Brief discussion on plans for Route 119 parcel. Commissioner Bass said continued search for proposed use; no current proposal. Jack Harrington Trail completion-no current update.

New Business

Gillie Tennis Courts

Year End Rport-Revenue \$59,155, Expenditure-23,000, Recreation staff only, does not account for DPW staff or for Darren Valdes Full Timer who worked there. Units of Service 6,531 visitor/session over five months. Season Passes sold 131, Adults-76, Youth 16-Total season passes purchased-223. Deputy Commissioner Croughan said phone reservations were well received and worked well. Mr. Schere suggested updating phone system, a hold option would be a great improvement. Deputy Commissioner Croughan stated studying possibility of separating reservations/court availability telephone inquiries and in person court check-in simultaneously at the court. Establishing a time period for reservations only is a possible solution.

Fee Schedule

Commissioner Bass reported: changes are indicated in the green next to the line with the change. The last column is what the difference in revenue would be as it relates to the change. Projected revenue is same as projected fees from prior year 20/21; there are very few changes for next year. Field Lights increased by \$5, increased revenue by \$200; New Tennis Class fee: proposed Youth \$110-Adult-\$145-4 weeks, skating instruction proposed \$10 increase. Camp Fee increased to help cover cost of increase in minimum wage. Season Pool passes increased by \$5. Summer Adult Basketball increase by \$50 per team. Hockey increases \$50-Midget, Non-Residence \$50. Camp and pool revenue was projected on prior year's revenue due to COVID, health department regulations, school district facility usage availability our staffing. Camp expansion is possible depending on health department regulations and school district. No changes allowed for campers once registered. Scholarships will be offered.K-2 Grades offering is without parents and a half day program. Motion to accept fee schedule by Dr. Randy Stein, second by Ms. Michele Schoenfeld.

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2021 Event scheduled tabled for next meeting.

Farmer's Market contract renewal with Bensidoun USA to oversee operations for two year period beginning in April 2021. Fee increased to \$2800 per year which is an increase in revenue of \$200 per year.

No events scheduled for February

Next meeting March 18, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Schere and Second by Michelle.

Meeting adjourned