

**THE CITY OF WHITE PLAINS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2021**

Present

Councilwoman Jennifer Puja
Commissioner Wayne Bass
Leonard Gruenfeld
Charles Morgan
Jonathan Schere
Dr. Randy Stein

Deputy Commissioner Fran Croughan
Christopher Kent
Dr. Richard Sanchez
Kevin Scully
Ellen Albers, Assistant Director

Absent

Evelyn Santiago
Frank Williams

Michele Schoenfeld
Caroline Furry

Meeting was called to order by Councilwoman Puja. She introduced herself as new chairwoman of the RAC Committee. Approval of minutes requested; so moved by Michele Schoenfeld, seconded by several. Motion carried.

Old Business

Commissioner Bass reported the following: 2021 Schedule-Farmers Market opens April 21, 8:30 a.m-3:30 p.m. Memorial Day Ceremony will be held at Delfino Park on May 31, 11am –no parade this year, two outdoor movie nights; “Are We There Yet” and “Sing” at White Plains High School on June 5th and 25th respectively, Pools open June 19th, Father’s Day Concert June 20th at Turnure Park, Summer Camp and Nights in the Parks begin July 12th, Gardella Day being planned for August 15th and WP Jazz Festival September 9-12.

Program Guide: The Spring/Summer Guide offerings were impacted by COVID. Several programs required modifications and re-structuring. The major portions of the Guide will be published in house. Printed copies will be made available at the Recreation office, online and various public City facilities, there will be no residential mailing. Program registration begins March 22nd. Chairwoman Puja also suggested sharing Guide link on social medial and neighborhood associations.

Facility and Fields

Field Marshals return on March 29th at which time Liberty Park, Baldwin Farm and the bathrooms at the Turnure Park Playground will be opened daily. The Ebersole Ice Rink will close for the season on April 1, ball fields will open on April 12th and Tennis courts are scheduled to open on May 10th.

New Business

COVID ANGELS

Deputy Commissioner Croughan reported that the WP COVID Angel project which was initiated by Mayor Roach is up and running. Gina Covington, Youth Bureau and Fran Croughan have worked together to coordinate this effort . The Community Center was opened on March 6 for White Plains seniors to receive vaccinations. The vaccine’s were dispensed by Sunshine Pharmacy to approximately 500 seniors. Additional vaccine’s have since been offered to 60 years and older, educators, police and firefighters for a total of 700 vaccines administered. Deputy Commissioner Croughan stated the Ebersole Ice Rink would be considered as a vaccination site to accommodate city residents if offered to age group 16 years and older. Councilwoman Puja thanked Deputy Commissioner Croughan for all her work.

Funny Bunny Morning

Deputy Commissioner Croughan reported that we will be hosting a Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 27th at the Highland Middle School Parker Stadium Field for Pre-K through 5th grades. A ticketed outdoor event for children; 50 children will be on each the field per timed intervals. No adults allowed. The hunt is scheduled hourly per age group from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Summer Camp 2021

Commissioner Bass reported a four weeks summer camp will be available for grades Kindergarten thru Sixth grades. A lottery system will be used to choose 50 campers per camp, 150 in total. Teen camp, a drop in program will be held at Gardella Park three days a week for grades 7-8, maximum 50 participants. Teens will engage in daily activities organized by Backyard Sports and will include swimming at the Gardella pool, cost \$25 for the pool pass. Weekly camps will also be offered for children of all ages through various Partner programs: Multisport, Art, Lego, Mad Science, Chess, etc.

Memorial Day Program

Deputy Commissioner Croughan reported because of COVID, we willnot be holding a parade however we will hold a Memorial Day Ceremony at Delfino Park, 11am on May 31. A Veteran Day speaker is being seeked at this time. Deputy Commissioner Croughan announced the loss of Veteran Robert Demarco, Past Commander of the VFW and Malcolm Baehr former head of the Jewish War Veterans as deceased honorees. Also White Plains citizens who died from COVID will be honored as well.

Battle of White Plains Playground Design

Commissioner Bass presented playground design for the renovation of the Battle Of White Plains Playground for children 2-5 years and 5-12 years of age. A new addition to the park for ages 5-12 features a netscape apparatus which is a climbing web that leads to a slide and will accommodate a large number of children. Swings will be reinstalled. Deputy Commissioner Croughan commented that the new park design is perfect and is within budget. Commissioner Bass announced Chairwoman Puja contribution of picnic tables for the park. Chairwoman Puja stated her employer, the AFL-CIO commemorates deceased employees by gifting benches and tables to various organization. They will partner with the Recreation Department and gift three benches and tables to the park.

Delfino Park Plaza Repair/Solar Panels

Commissioner Bass discussed the architectural design plan for the park: pavement work is in progress, sidewalk will be asphalt, pavers will be removed, and sidewalk up to the main service road to the picnic area will be repaved. The front make-over for Ebersole will be in the future. Solar Panel installation has also begun at the Ebersole Ice Rink. The Gedney Way lot will also have Solar Panels installed. Commissioner said he is not aware of parking lot closing at any time during installation. He will confirm.

Mr. Morgan inquired about basketball hoops going up on the courts. Commissioner Bass stated that he is currently engaged in discussions with the health dept. and other municipalities and will have update soon. Decision will be decisive for all courts, unless school district decides otherwise for the schools .

Events

- Funny Bunny Egg Hunt- Saturday, March 27
- Skate School Recital - Monday, March 29, 5:30 p.m. 5-10 minutes performance per group, four tickets per skater, COVID guidelines will be followed.
- Spring Break-Public Sessions-Resident Only, Mach 29-April 1, 1:30-3:30 p.mm
- Farmers Market-Opening Wednesday, April 21, 8am-3pm

Next meeting Thursday, May 20th at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Kent, seconded by Mr. Schere. **Meeting adjourned.**