

**THE CITY OF WHITE PLAINS  
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS  
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 19, 2020  
MINUTES**

**\*Meeting conducted by conference call**

**Attendance**

**Present**

Honorable Nadine Hunt-Robinson, Chairwoman  
Commissioner Wayne Bass  
Leonard Gruenfeld  
Kevin Scully  
Christopher Kent  
Dr. Randy Stein  
Johnathan Schere  
Michele Schoenfeld

**Absent**

Deputy Commissioner Fran Croughan  
Frank Williams  
Charles Morgan  
Evelyn Santiago

**Technical difficulties ( called in but couldn't get through)**

Caroline Furry  
Dr. Richard Sanchez

Meeting called to order by Chairwoman Honorable Nadine Hunt-Robinson.  
Motion to accept January minutes by Michelle Schoenfeld, seconded by Dr. Stein.

**Old Business**

**City Guide** – The Spring/Summer City Guide was mailed to households on Feb. 25. A week earlier than we had targeted. The guide includes programs offered by Youth Bureau, Library, and White Plains Performing Arts Center. Highlights include new programs; Pre-School - Fun in the Garden, Kempo (Chinese physical fitness program) T-ball Adult – HIIT –High Intensity Interval Training. Special Events – Court Street Sizzles – We will be programming activities on Court St for 3 successive days, 2x over a 2 week period... Tues July 7- July 9 and Tues July 14-July 16 Movie Nights, Farmers Market with entertainment, Dancing Under the stars, Noon Day Concert and Childrens shows

**Camp Fair** – Extremely well- attended however most of attendees came to register for camp and we were overwhelmed with registration...selling out of Camp Panawok and Camp Quarropas within the 3 hours. Unprecedented registration...5 years ago we were struggling with our camps...we re-vamped them adding early bird discounted registration, weekly registration, Camp Fair, down payments to hold spots, and upgrading the programming at camp including increase of swimming opportunities at the pools(daily), better trips, better special events and performers. Non- residents are not permitted at camp and we had to call about 10 non-residents to advise them of that. We are unable to increase our size this year....Facility space limitations, Pool availability (school pool closed this summer), staffing, equipment. Not enough time. We would like to consider another location for next year (MAS?) and breaking the camp into K-1, 2<sup>nd</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4-5<sup>th</sup>, Teen camp (6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>). Must meet with School district ( Joint Facilities meeting was cancelled this month) and then we can begin to discuss with Budget.

**White Plains Night w/Westchester Knicks** – We sold all of our tickets, 150 tickets at cost, \$10 to recoup our outlay. Last 2 weeks we sold tickets on-site at Rec Basketball games. Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade travel team was showcased at ½ time, playing a scrimmage game in front of a big crowd. Nice event.

**DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS  
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 19, 2020  
Page Two**

**Fee Schedule** – Our fee schedule for 2020-21 was approved at the February Council meeting. I presented it at the February Executive session.

**Gillie Park Playground** - Equipment has been ordered and we are still on target for breaking ground by mid- late April and completion by mid-June.

**New Business**

**Impact of Coronavirus**

On Thursday March 5 we shut down the Ice rink for 2 days to do a deep cleaning as a hockey player was identified as the brother of a student who attends the Sar Academy which was shut down earlier that week. His brother was on self-quarantined but he was not required to be quarantined. We re-opened the rink on Saturday March 7.

On Wednesday March 11 the annual White Plains St Patricks Day Parade was cancelled.

On Friday March 13 we shut down all of program and activities due to the worsening concerns surround the virus. We are currently issuing pro-rated refunds to those who participate in program that had not completed their classes. Preschool programs, Figure Skating, Jump In and Swim, Aquatics classes, Hockey Volleyball and a few Adult and Older Adult programs. Youth Basketball concluded with a full season on March 7. Playoffs were cancelled. Adult Basketball was suspended with 2 weeks of playoffs to play. After consultation with Westchester County Dept of Aging....On Monday March 16 we began delivering frozen meals to those Seniors who attended our Nutrition program on a daily basis. Any Senior over the past 30 days who attended the program for 3 or more days a week was contacted and given the opportunity to receive these meals. We are now delivering frozen meals 2x a week on Mondays they receive 2 meals and on Wednesdays they receive 3 meals. This is being handled by the staff at the Community Center under the direction of Martha Guarin and Sia Tofano. Food is being prepared by Hubbards Cupboard who normally prepares our food at the center.

On Tuesday, Monday March 17 we closed the facilities at 85 Gedney Way and 65 Mitchell place to the public. A modified staffing of 50% of FT staff is being used now with 6 members in and 6 members out daily to help maintain social distancing in the workplace. FT Staff at home are on call during normal business hours and are prepared for a conference call at 3:30pm as necessary.

In the office we are moving forward with our Spring and Summer planning until we are forced to make decisions.

Our next major events are Funny Bunny on April 11. Programs starting after April 13 and Softball Season. We will need to make decisions very shortly but before the end of March for April programs. Camps are going full tilt with organizing and hiring staff. Little league has postponed the start of its season until after May 11( Kevin Scully).

All Playgrounds closed as of 9am 3/19/20.

**Budget** – We submitted our budget to the Budget/Finance Dept in February

We faired well this year on the budget with hourly salaries as our fulltime salaries were significantly less due to full time employee turnover ( Matt Hanson retirement/George Price leaving)

Being fiscally responsible with our estimates of revenues and spending afforded us some additional funds

We worked within our budget and brought in more partner programs to maximize our available money

We have requested a total 3, 967, 181 a 3% increase over last year which amount to \$128,000 more with most of the additional going to pay for Door attendants, busing for camps and PT salary increases. Our revenue projection is 1, 822,600 a 5% increase over the past year. Budget hearings are scheduled to be held at end of April.

**Jack Harrington Greenway** – Open space formally the New York, Westchester Boston Railway acquired by the city in 1949. Railroad bed was used informally as a walkway until the 1980. The City has moved forward with extending the Greenway from Gedney Way to Bolton Ave. (1/4 mile stretch). For the most part the walkway is below grade and not visible to most residents. However as it climbs out to Bolton Ave. pedestrians would become more visible to the homeowners. Some pushback from homeowners who have property bordering the trail.

Meeting adjourned.