

**THE CITY OF WHITE PLAINS
DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
September 17, 2020**

MINUTES

Attendance

Present

Commissioner Wayne Bass
Caroline Furry
Michele Schoenfeld
Charles Morgan
Randy Stein
Martha Guarin

Deputy Commissioner Fran Croughan
Jonathan Schere
Leonard Gruenfeld
Richard Sanchez

Absent

Christopher Kent
Evelyn Santiago
Kevin Scully
Frank Williams

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Bass.

Minutes

Review of minutes from May: Motion to accept by Michele Schoenfeld, seconded by Randy Stein.
Review of minutes from July: Motion to accept by Michele Schoenfeld, seconded by Caroline Furry.

Program Report: Martha Guarin, Recreation Supervisor at the Community Center

Center opened on Sept. 8. Open Mon- Thur for Nutrition, average 12-18 people per day attending. Transportation drops off at 10:30am. Upon entering Center temperatures are taken. 2 people allowed to sit at a table to create social distancing. Each Senior will receive Recreation ID card that will be scanned upon entering and exiting the facility. The scanning provide us with the information to contact trace if necessary. We are using the lunch area and the TV Room to allow people to spread out. Numbers are down from a normal number of about 35 people. 11 people allowed at a time on bus for transportation, we do 2 runs each way. We have been doing 1 run for now.

18-20 Seniors for Picnic at Delfino Park on Sept 11. Zumba Class and lunch in the picnic area. It was well-received. Another picnic scheduled for Gardella Park on Sept. 25. 25 people have pre-registered. Activities will include Bingo and an entertainer. Pizza is on the menu.

Seniors have been very cooperative and understanding of the Covid Guidelines which the department has implemented at the Center.

Offering 3 classes for the Seniors this season: Fine Art, Knitting and Crochet and Memoir Writing.

Distributed 355 Farmers Market coupons at Gardella Park, Kittrell Park, Slater Center and at the Community Center during the month of September.

Martha was an essential worker coming in 2 days a week throughout the quarantine period from March – August. She was responsible for coordinating home meal deliveries and making wellness calls throughout the time period.

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Summer at a Glance

In comparison to other communities we were very active in our programming this summer.

Pools open from July 1 – August 31. Sold 784 pool passes, averaged 130 people a day.

222 Tennis passes sold, averaged 75 plays a day.

36 Softball teams. League play began in July and will end in late October, early November. One player was identified as testing positive for Covid. No other incidences.

32 participants in our Speed Clinic held at Gardella Park.

200 Campers this summer between all camp programs. 100 children in our Day Play program. Feedback was great regarding the Day Play experience. Donations to campers included Back Packs from NY Presbyterian Hospital. Bicycle Helmets donated by Jill Solomon Foundation. Entertainers daily, sprinklers and had some special days at the Kittrell Pool. Leonard Gruenfeld stated his daughter had a great time at the Gillie Day Play Program. The program was run by Full-time staff.

All staff was very diligent with following guidelines and doing extra work to clean, disinfect and enforce regulations.

Fall Program Guide was released. Did not publish any Winter programs. We worked with staff to identify programs that could be executed safely under the guidelines provide by NYS. We produced a 16 page guide and used a magazine style format with a lighter weight paper which saved us money. Other partners (Youth Bureau, Performing Arts Cener) who normally contribute program information to the guide did not know what they were going to present at the time so we moved on with producing the guide with just Rec & Parks info.

Fall Soccer Clinics, Track and Field, Tennis Classes, Ballet and Jazz are all sold out.

2 Drive in movies in September sold out within hours of being advertised.

Staff given Covid boxes with all safety supplies for each program and we have staff orientation before each program. Each program has a specific Covid plan that was developed by the Recreation program staff. Staff is responsible for carrying out the plan and conveying it to their staff.

Differing Abilities program met at Saxon Wood for mini-golf. Other program activities will be Tennis, Drive-in Movie and other outdoor activities.

Staff rose to the occasion throughout the Spring /Summer, making adjustments to assignments, programs and schedules as necessary.

Ebersole Ice Rink

Plans to open after Columbus Day weekend. Currently registering for Figure Skating classes which begin in late October. Class sizes will be limited . Temperatures taken upon entrance into the rink. Public Sessions will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The capacity of the rink will be limited to 100 skaters during Public Session. Ms. Schoenfeld asked if we would advertise the capacity limit. The answer is YES and we would keep track of the comings and goings. Also we will have the Skate Guards break-up any gatherings on the ice. The concession stand will not be operating and the warming room limited to those renting skates only. Those not skating must wait outside in the bleacher area or in their cars. Those arriving with skates will be directed straight to the courtyard. They will put on their skates in the courtyard on benches that we have provided.

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Mr. Gruenfeld asked if there will be a loss of revenue without the concession stand being in operation. Commissioner Bass stated that there will be a loss in revenue from the concession rental agreement. But in the full scope of the overall rink it is minimal. Deputy Commissioner Croughan reviewed revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30 and stated that the department was in good space as many of the major revenue generating programs for the year had been carried out prior to the closure of our programs in early March. Overall we were 11% less on our expenditures and 13% less on our revenue. In real numbers we were \$200,000 short of what our revenue projections were but we also reduced our expenditures by \$442,000. The department did very well considering the circumstances. Many uncertainties going into the new fiscal year. One major revenue source has been the registration for swim classes which will not be held due to pool closure at WPHS for the year. Also the Hockey program generates substantial income and there is uncertainty as to what we can and cannot offer and the impacts the NYS Covid guidelines will have on our registration. Hockey along with Basketball, Football, Lacrosse and Volleyball are considered high risk sports and as a result games are not currently allowed to be played. Low contact clinics are allowed. Thus the Hockey and Basketball programs are of most concern to the department this year. Full time staff will be utilized wherever possible reducing our need to pay part-time employees. Reviewing our inventory and purchases to reduce expenditures to offset loss in revenue.

Gillie Park Playground

Ground was broke in early September to be completed by early November.

Jazzfest

Virtual programs held daily during the week of September 8 -13 and 3 live events held outdoors at Brazen Fox, Lilly's and Via Garibaldi. Covid guidelines followed at the live events with a 50 person limit at each. All programs and events were well attended. Over 1000 hits on Facebook.

New Business

Special Events: Drive- in Movies have been a hit. Showing Moana and Jumanji at the WPHS Student parking lot, sold out. Will be offering a Drive-in Movie for Halloween held over 3 nights Thurs, Fri, Sat will start at 5pm each night; ½ hour of music followed by a 1/2 magic show and then the movie would begin at 7pm. The magic show will be filmed by Cable and shown live on the big screen. Dr. Stein asked what happens if someone doesn't own a car. If we identify any families who do not have access to a car we would provide chairs for them. **Veteran's Day** will be a virtual program which will air on the city's cable station on Veterans Day. **Tree Lighting and New Years Eve** have been cancelled this year. **Dog Swim** was held in early September, we held 2 sessions and dogs had to pre-register, sold out. The **9/11 Remembrance** was done virtually. Fran worked with the Mayor in having the program taped at Liberty Park . It aired on WP Cable outlets on Sept. 11.

We are also requiring all facility renters /users to provide us with a Covid plan, which we must approve before they can use our facility. Also we are currently running an afterschool outdoor recreation program with Backyard Sports at Gardella and Delfino Parks, the cost is only \$10 for 6 sessions.

Discussion regarding the wearing of masks by all patrons including those on the ice. Dr. Stein and Mr. Morgan questioned as to why all users at the rink aren't required to wear mask. The Health Department is not mandating that youth wear masks during physical exertion. Dr. Stein suggests, based on her professional opinion that we consider that all who enter the rink wear masks. Commissioner Bass said that the policy had not been set in stone and would consider her suggestion as well as investigate the policies of other rinks.

Next Meeting Thursday, Nov. 18

Motion to adjourn by Michelle Schoenfeld, second by Jonathan Schere.