

Meeting Minutes
Grand Island Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
February 28, 2022 @ 7:00 PM
Location: Town Hall

Members: Judy Schmidt, David Pratt, Michelle Lockett, Matthew Pfeil, Ray Billica (excused), James Szakacs (excused), Natalie Grunzweig (Parks), Lisa Hauss (excused)

Alternate: Beverly Kinney

Town Board Liaison: Tom Digati

Recreation Supervisor: Joseph Menter (excused)

Recreation Supervisor Senior Services: Jen Menter (excused)

Parks Crew Chief: Tom Cecere

Approval of January Minutes:

Election of Advisory Board Chair: David Pratt volunteered to be chair, with support from Judy as Vice Chair. Beverly Kinney motioned to make David Pratt the chair, Michelle Lockett second the motion. All voted unanimously for David to be Pratt. Beverly Kinney nominated Judy to be Vice Chair and David Pratt second, all voted unanimously for Judy to be Vice Chair.

Old Business

- **Town Commons – review responses to RFQ** – Members reviewed three proposal packages, from Joy Keubler, Wendel and Barton & Loguidice. We are asking for a new landscape plan that will be used to apply for grants to complete the work. There is a big concern over the flooding into the Town Hall Parking Lot and what is causing it. Also, there is concern that the flooding is caused by the creek downstream on private property. Next step will be to bring them in for interviews. We will be asking them, 1) how to fix the flooding, 2) how best to install ADA paths, 3) landscaping ideas, 4) an electric sign 5) priorities for implementation phases 6) ideas for shelters/band shell/amphitheater type natural seating. Tom Digati will contact all three companies and invite them to the next PRAB meeting.

- **Tree Inventory Update – Dave Pratt** – Many meetings for report review and revision from Davey Trees. The report needs to go to the DEC for reimbursement for the study. We received status of our trees and a database of the trees. The Tree Management Plan will cost \$350,000 to implement. The majority of the trees are in good shape. Davey Trees recommended putting in trees along streets, and recommends which varieties are good for this. Grand Island doesn't have a forestry division like other towns. The Long Range Planning Committee is looking for recommendations for types of trees to recommend for Design Standards. The next step is to get a finished report from Davey Trees.

New Business –

- **Website** – The new website will be coming soon. Judy will speak with Natalie and Tom C. some time in April to show them the website and see if they want any changes. The website will not go live until May, so Parks should continue to use their current method of reserving pavilions and fields. Parks would like to control their posts.
- **Pavilion Rental Application Form** – Natalie shared the form, she used parts of the Recreation Departments rental application. A \$20 deposit is now included, that is in addition to the rental fee – Natalie will change to make this more clear. This form is just for the Veterans Park pavilions, except the Miracle League. Town residents can rent the Miracle League for \$100 an hour. Members of Miracle League can rent for free. The town cleans up the pavilion after use. The liquor license still needs to be investigated. Right now the form should say no alcohol and no tobacco, because those are the park rules.

Town Board Liaison Report (Tom Digati) – Nothing more to report.

Town Department Head Reports:

- **Recreation Supervisor (Joe Menter)**
- **Senior Services (Jen Menter)**
- **Parks Crew Chief (Tom Cecere)** – Busy winter of snow removal. Now for the first time maintaining all of the Town’s sidewalks. Plowing the DeGlopper parking lot and keeping walk-ways clean. Maintaining trails in the winter. Clearing the Library parking lot of snow. Maintenance requests at Golden Age Center and Nike Base facilities. Adding another trail loop at Nike Base. They bought tracks to turn the four wheeler into a snowmobile to maintain trails in winter.

Round Table – The question was raised whether the Parks and Rec Advisory Board could institute a community watch group for clean ups. The town does organize two clean ups a year. The Parks department cleans up the trails 3 times a week. Any groups would need to coordinate with the town. Any town sponsored or run trail keepers group would have to be approved by the town board.

There maybe interest in discussions about a West River Friends Group now.

Adjourn time: Beverly Kinney motioned to adjourn and Judy Schmidt second at 8:45.

Next Meeting: March 28, 2022