

Meeting Minutes

Grand Island Parks & Recreation and Advisory Board

Members Present: Judy Schmidt / Eric Soehnlein / James Szakacs / Jenn Pusatier

Absent: Jason Masker / Robin Shipman / David Pratt

Town Board Liaison: Thomas Digati

Recreation Supervisor: Joe Menter

Recreation Supervisor: Jenn Menter (absent)

Parks: Natalie Grunzweig

Public: Beverly Kinney / Jenn Perise (EDAB)

January 27, 2020

Meeting called to order by Judy Schmidt at 7:05pm

2020 changes to board: Paul Leuchner & Tom Digati have stepped down as members. David Pratt and Jenn Pusatier were alternates and are now voting members. (2) alternates at large

1. Old Business

a. Nike Base Improvements

- Grant should be in by May 2020
- Grant funds are to be allocated on the Nike Base Property
- top 5 items will be addressed first
 - *trail system, golf, bocce ball, horseshoes, picnic shelter*
- 2 1/2 years working toward this grant for Nike Base Campus

b. Dog Park

- current Dog Park committee has insufficient funds to fund a park at Nike Base
- the Dog Park committee does hold insurance currently
- an invitation will be sent to the dog park committee to attend the next Master Parks committee meeting
- the previous agreement between the Town of Grand Island and the Dog Park committee is void and needs to be renegotiated if needed.

c. Open Space Inventory

- Parks and Rec has been requesting OSI since September of 2019 to see the open space inventory done by the Conservation Board.
- 187 properties within the Town of Grand Island
- Grand Island Town Board has not approved the Open Space Inventory as of today
- Parks and Rec has concerns about the 45 days of review to the referring body. Who is that?
- Parks and Rec has asked Councilman Digati to look into the inventory and bring it to this advisory board.

d. Attendance

- discussion was had on making sure to attend these meetings so that we have a quorum.
- meeting schedule was handed out for the year 2020.

2. New Business

- a. Review and brainstorming as to what 2020 goals will be.
 - matrix from the Comprehensive Plan was reviewed by Judy
- b. Town Commons
 - questions have been brought to our attention as to who maintains the town commons?
 - discussion was had with Natalie as to her understanding and if she could look into how the grounds could be managed better.
 - the bridge needs repair for wheelchair and ADA compliance
 - overgrowth of the creek-bed. (what should or shouldn't be there)
 - sight lines of the park are gone from the Town Hall
 - would improvement in the overgrowth help with drainage?
 - Parks and Rec would like to work with departments on improving these grounds and possibly getting volunteers to help.
 - Is the original Town Commons plan available to review?
- c. Veterans Park
 - Update on the picnic shelter? Has it been approved and location?
 - what projects are set for the park for 2020? improvements / funding
 - crown the fields, drain fields, pathways, diamonds out of commission?
 - how can veterans park be used by the tax payers during all seasons?

** Main focus of 2020 will be working on a proposal of a Field House **

The board feels this is a need and not a want. Many within the community still discuss this often. The Parks and Rec Board would like to start the conversation and see what we can come up with collaboratively. (gyms / art / meeting space)

3. Town Department Head Reports

Joe and Jenn Menter: AARP Tax Prep. Wednesdays Feb 5 - April 8 at GAC.
March the recreation is looking to start a new 5 week Kid-nastics program K-5 in the Community Center. Community Center Fee schedule is being looked at now by Joe and the Town of GI. Wednesdays at the GAC is expanding their hours with night programs. Space is still very difficult and in short supply for recreation programs. Grand Island Schools are growing their programs which in turn shortens or cancels our space for programing. (GICSD is making last minute changes and is hurting our programs because of the inconsistency of gym space) GAC and Parks has been very focused on advertising the centers and the programs available. Websites and local news outlets.

Guest: Jennifer Perise stopped in from the Economic Advisory Board to promote the new Grand Island Videos. Live, Play, and Stay! EDAB has asked us to work on expanding our trail system. Many trails on Grand Island need to be connected to each other. There are many open holes in our trail system. Way-finding signage needs to be improved.

Meeting Adjourned at : 9:00 motion by Eric / second by James