



Meeting Notes

Grand Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)

Members: | David Pratt, Chair | Judy Schmidt, Past Chair, Michelle Lockett, Secretary
Matthew Pfeil, Ray Billica, Beverly Kinney, Sam Clarke, Joe Killian

Town Board Liaison: Tom Digati | **Recreation Supervisor:** Joseph Menter |

Recreation Supervisor Senior Services: Jen Menter | **Parks Crew Chief:** Tom Cecere

Meeting Date and Time: Monday July 24, 2023

Location: Town Hall – Conference Room

In attendance: Dave Pratt, Tom Digati, Judy Schmidt, Joe Killian, Sam Clarke, Tom Cecere, Michelle Lockett, Ray Billica, Beverly Kinney, Mike Kwiatowski from little league

Approval of the May 2023 minutes: Ray motioned to accept, Bev second. All approved.

Old Business

1. Welcome New Members: Sam Clarke & Joe Killian – Joe is a life long islander, involved with baseball league with own four sons, and has worked for parks the past four years. Sam also lived on GI his whole life, participated with Rec programs in the past, works remotely in NYC as a project manager in the banking industry.
2. Mike Kwiatowski (Pres. Of Grand Island Little League): He has been President for the past 2 years and thanked the Parks Crew for the condition of fields at Veterans Park. The relationship between Little League and the GI Parks Dept. has been growing stronger. Little League has received a new grill storage unit, speaker system, dugout on field 5, a new sign on the complex, new fencing and improved batting gages, Field 8 has added black top path. Point of Sale system with wifi. Future ideas would be to update the scoreboards; and a bathroom facility near the softball diamond. Little League greatly appreciates all the help that the Parks Crew has given them. Interested in contributing their capital on future projects like adding a softball field. They have a grant writer who is looking to find funding too. The immediate plan is to use the portable trailer bathrooms (from the high school) at Vets park near the softball field.
3. Town Center Update (Tom Digati and Judy Schmidt): Judy, Tom C and Tom D and Jen P. met with Bob Westfall and will be meeting with Barton & Loguidice and communicate what they are looking for. Ice Skating Rink, Geo Grid, narrowed paths, not so many trees, path to Gazebo. They do not want Barton & Loguidice to try to fix the drainage because the creek flows into the storm sewer system. Heavy rain causes it to overflow.
4. Remembrance Wall at Veteran's Park (Tom Cecere): Peter Godfrey and Tom Digati playing phone tag. Tom will inquire with Town Board members if we need the Town's lawyers to approve.
5. Demolition of Nike Base Buildings (Tom Digati & Time Cecere): Waiting to hear back from State Historic Preservation Office to get approval. We need their approval if we get grant funding to take them down.

6. Open Space Committee: (Michelle Lockett & Sam Clarke): A grant has been submitted for funding of a consultant, waiting to hear if we got it. RFP draft is still being developed.
7. \$125K for Nike Base Improvements (Tom Digati): Still waiting for approval for the modified changes. Tom Digati will be asking Angelo Morinello to help find out.
8. Miracle League: \$1,000,000 for improvements (Tom Digati): Tom and Tom met with the President of the board. The Town signed off on the money from the County. Scoreboard, fencing, repairs to playground and surface, security cameras, splash pad. There has been children digging holes in the playground surface, they were identified on the security cameras but when the police were notified, they basically said there was not much they could do about it.
9. Recruitment, PRAB still needs one more alternate advisory board member. It was posted again recently, but there was no response.
10. Golf View (Lighthouse Point) PDD Project: The Planning Board approved it and it was recommended to the Town Board. It is not approved as a PDD yet. We will take this off the agenda, until it seems to be gaining ground.

New Business:

1. Ray Billica: Parks and Rec Departments are sending their proposed fee schedules to the Town Board and then they come back to PRAB for our input. However, this never happened. Ray proposes this process should be done every October.
2. Tom Cecere: GI Soccer club can run a clinic for free on the fields, however if they sponsor a clinic that they have nothing to do with and another off-Island organization is making profits from the clinic, they should need to pay the off Island fee. Town nonprofit organization can use fields for free. A standard form may help alleviate identifying what organization is using the field and for what purpose. Questions such as, Are you affiliated with any other organizations for this event? Are you charging for this event? Do you have off Islanders playing in this event? Tom C. and Joe can work on the wording for a facility or field usage form.

Town Department Head Reports

- Town Board Liaison Report (Tom Digati): Rivertown project includes a 20+ feet high recreation facility that the community could rent.
- Parks Crew Chief (Tom Cecere): fees – Next year we need to address scheduling, the weekends at Vets Park are out of control with usage of the fields. The Park is full from 9 AM to 10 at night. Most staff doesn't want to work 7 days a week. Could we pay staff more on the weekends? Possibly rotate their schedules, so they aren't working every weekend. How else can we alleviate this problem?

Adjourn: Bev motioned to adjourn at 9:24 and Ray second.

Next Meeting: Monday August 28, 2023 7:00pm GI Town Hall