



Meeting Notes

Grand Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRB)

Members: | David Pratt, Chair | Michelle Lockett | Matthew Pfeil | Lisa Hauss
| James Szakacs | Ray Billica | Judy Schmidt | **Alternates:** Beverly Kinney
Town Board Liaison: Tom Digati | **Recreation Supervisor:** Joseph Menter |
Recreation Supervisor Senior Services: Jen Menter | **Parks Crew Chief:** Tom Cecere

Meeting Date and Time: July 25, 2022 7:00pm

Location: Town Hall – Conference Room

In attendance: David Pratt, Judy Schmidt, Michelle Lockett, Beverly Kinney, Ray Billica, Jen Menter, Tom Digati

Meeting called to order 7:02

Approval of the April minutes – Approved with amendment – “PRAB wishes to keep the memorial plaques consistent, with an affordable design.” Remembrance program for the Senior Center, Jen will bring their policy standard to the next board meeting for review and potential use for the Parks. Judy motioned to approve the minutes as amended, Ray second.

Old Business

Town Center, Barton & Loguidice Agreement: Tom Digati & Judy Schmidt – Phase 1 is master plan – 30% design. Phase 2 is design phase with 60% design (for creek hydrological studies and ADA path component). The creek analysis is a priority and the path will make the project more eligible for funding. For future projects we should request an RFP (request for proposal) so we can compare prices across vendors equally. RFQ (request for qualifications) was used to choose Barton & Loguidice. Tom would like to set up a separate time for PRAB members to meet with Barton & Loguidice to discuss details of their scoping document.

Tree Inventory: Dave Pratt – There is a 7/21/22 newer version report, containing clarification of the town not having authority over the GI Welcome Center. The Tree Inventory focused on right of ways. The town has a policy that they do not want people to plant in the right of ways, however Davey Trees is recommending that they allow plantings in the right of ways. Davey did not recommend which plants to plant because the Town doesn't want trees or plants in right of ways.

New developers are supposed to put in two trees per house, but they aren't following through. We want to incentivize citizens to plant trees. The town's design standards need to be updated. The tree committee will be requesting their continuation in order to modify the Davey recommendations to fit the capacity of Grand Island. In addition they will initiate the recommendation to the Town Board to allow the planting of trees in open spaces and parks. Take out high risk trees (24 high risk trees), pruning and then planting. Meeting is August the 8th to make an action plan.

Naming Policy: Judy Schmidt – Senior center has remembrance programs both inside and outside. The town needs a policy on how we decide to choose who is memorialized on a trail.

There is a difference between a rock memorial, remembering an important citizen and naming a trail after someone. PRAB members will look at the naming policy that Judy distributed once again and make a decision next meeting to make an official recommendation to the town board. We will need to consider what a remembrance program might look like, it could potentially be a park with remembrance stones that family members can buy.

Trail memorial marker: Judy Schmidt - The current rock memorial inside Nike Base was paid for by the family.

Nike Base locks: Joe Mentor – the locks have been installed and are in use at the Nike Base and working well.

Fees: Joe Mentor & Ray Billica – Community Center usage fees – when it was presented to the town board it was recommended that PRAB come up with a complete fee schedule. Town Board and Department heads will start to revamp the costs and fees for Parks and Rec and then present to PRAB. The town cannot make a profit off of these fees, they have to be justified. Joe has the knowledge to compare prices at other towns and work with the town to figure out the budget and appropriate fees. Concern about having competitive staff wages. Adopted fee schedule on the website needs to be updated.

New Business

Laura Murray & "book nook": Natalie Grunzweig & Tom Digati – Mrs. Murray is interested in putting the lending library near the path from Bishops Gate to the High School. Tom will tell John Whitney that Parks and Rec Advisory Board doesn't see this as a PRAB issue because it is not on Parks property.

Demolition of Nike Base buildings: Ray Billica – Ray made a motion to recommend demolition, while simultaneously working to acknowledge the historical significance of Nike Base Buildings and Bev second. Building 3 and maintenance B building right next to the trail. The roof is falling in and is a safety concern. The maintenance B building has a roof problem that is not fixable. Both buildings are condemned and can be demolished. Ray is recommending that the Town look at how much it would cost to knock them down. The school has sold 8 acres of Echo Island to Thermo Fisher. Missel silos are there. School can still sell this property. The town cannot sell any part of the Nike Base. Dave would like to see some pieces memorialized. We are already working on remembrance information to be displayed through a QR code.

Town Board Liaison Report: Tom Digati – nothing more to report

Town Department Head Reports

- Recreation Supervisor: Joe Menter – Paddles Up this Saturday. Programs are filling up.
- Senior Services: Jen Menter – Summer has been challenging because they are short staffed. Currently there are 8 people (5 full time 3 part time) on staff, one year ago there were 12 people. Jen has had to juggle multiple jobs, due to sick leaves. She thinks having a substitute list of recreation attendants will help remedy this problem. She is concerned that there are no rec attendant spots. She does use a lot of volunteers that are a great resource. She is posting in the Island wide Dispatch for a recreation part time position, waiting to see if anyone applies. She did get some inquiries recently, and will be calling to interview. Looking forward to getting to some of the activities she was planning for the summer, like hiking, kayaking that had to go to the wayside because of the staff shortage. Vegetable garden for seniors to eat. She has made some space using the dining area for some of her programming so that the Rec department could use the Community Center. Shakespeare in the Park did two performances, 200 people attended. Hoping

to get them back next year. August will be the kayaking programs. Summer carnival at end of August. Grams garage sale, and farmers market, August 13.

Roundtable – Has there ever been a discussion for Beaver Island to give Grand Island residents a discount on entrance fee. Put this on the agenda to discuss more at next meeting.

Our webpage needs to have the minutes. The town clerk should be maintaining records of all minutes on the website. The PRAB secretary will forward the minutes to the Town Clerk. Email to pfrentzel@grand-island.ny.us.

For next months agenda, start looking at a Parks master plan. Also on the next agenda, what will be done with the \$125,000 for Nike Base.

Community Center – we have an option to lease a 10,000 sq ft space from the new River Town development. The hold up is figuring out how much it would cost to build out the facility. We will discuss more at the next meeting. Ray suggests that Tom takes back to the Town Board that they talk to Jen about specifications for a Senior Center.

Adjourn – Judy motioned to adjourn at 9:11 and Beverly Second.

Next Meeting: August 22 at 7:00 PM