

# Meeting Minutes

## Grand Island Parks & Recreation and Advisory Board

**Members Present:** Judy Schmidt (C) / Jenn Pusatier (S) / David Pratt / Ray Billica / Lisa Hauss

**Absent:** Eric Soehnlein / Jason Masker (VC)/ James Szakacs

**Board Liaison:** Thomas Digati

**Recreation Supervisor:** Joe Menter

**Recreation Supervisor:** Jenn Menter

**Parks:** Natalie Grunzweig (absent)

**Public:** none

**August 24 2020 / zoom meeting**

**Meeting called to order by Judy Schmidt at 7:00pm**

***Board openings: (1) alternates***

***Changes to board: none***

***Motion to approve minutes: 1st by Ray / 2nd by David***

***correction: remove James Szakacs from absent***

### **1. Old Business**

#### **a. Creek Clean Up Town Commons**

- Improvements have been made. Some clearing and dead trees removed.
- Liz from Conservation has done an inventory of plantings.
- David, Diane, and Tom Dworak met at the creek and concluded that considerable thinning needed to be done to start. Regular maintenance plan needs to be made. Its a beginning. Appreciative of work done.
- Invasive species have over taken hand work.
- Concerns continue on flooding, the lack of flow, and stream bed is gone.
- Jenn talked to Dworak about ADA issue with bridge. (staining?)
- Jenn shared pictures on town commons and master plan.
- Dick Crawford had confirmed the creek is not flowing.
- David & Jenn are going to continue work with Parks, Hi-way, and the CAB and have a meeting to review the needs and master plan of Wood Creek.
- Ray suggested reaching out to Tom for staining, islands in parking lot should be addressed with Jim L and landscaping requires a large amount of labor. Parks has been told not to touch. Clean ditch.
- Tom Digati suggested a clear-all. Councilman Digati going to set meeting for sub-committee.

#### **b. Way-finding Signs**

- Goal for 2021 to explore.

#### **c. Open Space Report (*nothing to report for August*)**

- Parks and Rec has been requesting OSI since September of 2019 to see the open space inventory done by the Conservation Board.

- Parks and Rec has asked Councilman Digati to look into the inventory and bring it to this advisory board.
- d. Picnic Shelter Veterans Park and Gazebo
  - Out for bids. Boces is still questionable due to covid-19 on gazebo.
  - Has the town explored in house options.

## **2. New Business**

- a. Sidewalk, Bike, and Trail Committee
  - David would like clarification from the Town Board through Tom Digati as to who the advisory board is and why have they not met since 2018.
- b. Scenic Woods
  - Discussed the 3 stage plan to East River. Past and future.
  - Has this been discussed with the current town board and are grants available? Wetland delineations are about to expire.
- c. Projet Olive
  - Has been suspended by the developer.
- d. Community Center
  - We need to keep an eye on grant opportunities.
  - Ray and Jenn Mentor have met and discussed the needs of GI
  - Ray proposes to get an RFP together. Be open to the ideas that come in and get an idea as to costs.
  - Jenn P feels that breaking down the actual cost to tax payers per year is important. 6-10 million dollar is offer overwhelming.... ask Pam for currents rates and breakdown.
  - Tom Digati is going to set up a meeting with everyone at community center to discuss community center.
  - Recreation Dept is getting pushed out more from GI Schools.
  - A needs assessment has been requested from Jenn & Joe's Depts.
  - Judy requested that Tom Digati adds this to the Sept workshop.
  - The board unanimously feels that a community center is a NEED.

## **3. Town Department Head Reports**

Joe Menter: Summer programs were smooth considering covid-19. GI was the only community in WNY that ran general programs. Sports Craze, Tennis, Nature, Come and Create, Fishing, Outdoor Fitness Fun, Toddler Soccer, Adult Soccer and Softball Leagues. Priority was safety with social distancing and sanitizing. Fall and Winter outdoor activities. GI School District is not allowing outside groups including the rec dept. Community space is in even more need. Revenue will be a loss but not detrimental because of low registration.

Jenn Menter : No mandates and guidance from state on Senior Services. Re-opened transportation Aug 10th, with one passenger. Aug 17th limited proگرامing with home cooked meals. Flood foyer and roof leak on re-opening day. Seniors are slowing coming back. Disinfection happens 3 times a day. Limited staffing because staff (2) are at Town Hall. Huge outreach to seniors by Jenn on reopening. Indoor / outside lunches and programs depending on the seniors comfort levels. Most of

outside programming offered at the center will be available via zoom. Jenn is expanding program options upon approval of the town board. Some seniors have enjoyed the zoom programming and want to keep with zoom. Jenn has been constructing the safety plan herself for GAC. Meals on Wheels is still in need of volunteers. Bus grants are on hold. Legislator Hardwick has funded a push button ADA compliant front door.

Thomas Digati : Going to reach out to Natalie as to absences. Set up 2 meetings. Look into Jenn Mentors staff being added back to the center. Sanitizing has been a challenge on limited staff alone and with employees on medical. Sidewalk, Bike, and Trail Committee what has happened? Open Space inventory available yet? Pam current bond rate.

Next Meeting: Work on the Fee Schedule. Report back from sub committees.  
Councilman Digati's to do list. :)

Meeting Adjourned at : 8:34 pm

Motion by David / seconded by Lisa

**Next Meeting on: September 28th**