



# Meeting Notes

## Grand Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRB)

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**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

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Meeting Date and Time: Monday September 25, 2023

Location: Town Hall – Conference Room

In attendance: Dave Pratt, Tom Digati, Ray Billica, Sam Clarke, Judy Schmidt, Michelle Lockett, Jen Menter, Tom Cecere, Joe Menter

Absent: Joe Killian, Beverly Kinney, Matthew Pfeil

Call meeting to order: 7:10 PM

Approval of the July 2023 minutes: Ray Billica motioned to accept the July minutes, Dave Pratt second. All approved.

### Old Business

1. Town Center Update (Tom Digati and Judy Schmidt): - Waiting on B & L to respond to an email request from Tom Digati. We are waiting to see the concept changes we requested (ADA accessible paths and creek clean up), so they can move on to the 60% design plans, particularly some renderings. Judy will give them a call. Tom C. would prefer the surface of the ice rink to be on a geogrid, however it can be on any surface as long as there is no more than 1 inch difference. The ice rink is not currently in the Parks budget. Funds for doing the design is coming from the Trust and Agency fund.  
The reason the Town Hall parking lot is flooding is not because of the creek but because of the street drains overflowing and the water goes to the lowest part of ground, which is the parking lot.
2. Remembrance Wall at Veteran's Park (Tom Cecere): Tom Digati will put this on the Town Board agenda for Monday.
3. Demolition of Nike Base Buildings (Tom Digati & Time Cecere): We are still waiting for the State Historic Preservation Office to approve the demolition. The engineering plans and /or photos for the two condemned Nike Base Buildings can be framed and/or made into interpretive signs as a way to honor their existence and purpose. If we get SHPO's approval, then we can get some money to cover the demolition cost. We will try to set up a meeting with the Historical Preservation Advisory Board to meet them at the Nike Base to discuss what we can do with the area. Jen Menter will work on setting up this meeting.
4. Open Space Committee: (Michelle Lockett & Sam Clarke): Tom Digati said perhaps we look at an RFQ instead of an RFP to see if there are any consultants that can actually do all

of the desired plans (Parks Master Plan, Open Space Plan and Natural Resource Inventory). We will be trying to do an RFP or RFQ as a combined project for both Open Space and Parks and Rec Master Plan and the Parks and Rec will work with CAB on creating one RFP or RFQ. The Open Space Planning Committee is close to having a draft ready for review by all concerned Advisory Boards. The draft should be ready for review by the next PRAB meeting if not sooner. The question remains whether we can have one RFP or if we need two.

5. \$125K for Nike Base Improvements (Tom Digati): Still waiting on the Dormitory Authority State of NY to approve changes to the original application. Pavilion is the priority and then bocce ball.
6. PRAB Recruitment: Jason Ellis application (Dave Pratt & Tom Digati): Ray Billica motions to recommend Jason as an alternate to the Board. Dave Pratt seconds the motion. We all voted to recommend him to the board. Tom will get it on the Town Board agenda for one of the meetings in October and if approved he can attend the October PRAB meeting.
7. PRAB review of proposed fees (Dave Pratt) – Fee schedule gets updated every January. If dept. heads can get their fee schedules to the Town board by Oct. 31. Town Board will review, add their comments, and then send to Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for review and comments.
8. Off Island fee (Tom Cecere & Joe Mentor) – The travel teams are now mixed with youth from all different towns. Little League is playing more and more games and tournaments on the Weekends, it is getting hard to get staff to cover the extra games. Potential increases in fees will be in discussion with Parks and Town Board.

#### New Business:

GI Middle & High Schools Day of Service – Michelle commented that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class is working with State Parks in helping to clean up the West River Shoreline, Woods Creek and part of the Shoreline Trail that goes from South bridge to Tim Hortons. Tom Cecere said he was contacted by the school district in mid-summer about this, but then was not asked again.

#### Town Department Head Reports

- Recreation Supervisor (Joe Menter) – Summer programs went well, programs were full. Fall programs running right now, kick ball and flag football, adaptive programs. Adult basketball at middle school. Youth basketball. New adult fitness and music classes are working well over the past couple years. Veterans day coming up. Working on putting together a more robust training, like a week long for the leadership staff to recognize signs of mental health issues of students.
- Senior Services (Jen Menter) – Viking Cares Initiatives / student day of service. 15 different projects for the kids. University Express, Alzheimers Association programs, Choose Healthy WNY, Respite Program, Class on Mindfulness, crafting, wellness, Halloween Party, Two vans coming end of the year, took 4 years to get here. Holiday Happenings, vendors are sold out. Price of Meals on Wheels is going up to \$8 from \$5 a day. Jen suggested we could have a meeting at the Senior Center soon.

- Parks Crew Chief (Tom Cecere): In the middle of renovations, aerating, changing 2 more fields to accommodate different age groups. Four out of 6 fields are capable of handling different ages. Landscaping project with Highway Dept. at Beaver Island.

Roundtable

Adjourn – Ray motion to adjourn, Dave second. Adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday October 23, 2023, 7:00pm GI Town Hall