



Meeting Notes

Grand Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRB)

Members: Dave Pratt, Chair | Judy Schmidt, Past Chair | Michelle Lockett, Secretary | Matthew Pfeil | Lisa Hauss | James Szakacs | Ray Billica | **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: September 26, 2022 7:00pm

Location: Town Hall – Conference Room

Approval of the August minutes – Beverly motioned to approve and Dave second. All approved.

In attendance – Dave Pratt, Judy Schmidt, Michelle Lockett, Beverly Kinney

Excused – Matt Pfeil, Tom Cecere

Absent – Lisa Hauss, Jim Szakacs, Ray Billica, Joe Menter, Jen Menter

Meeting called to order at 7:12 PM

Old Business

1. Town Center and Barton & Loguidice (B&L) contract: Tom Digati & Judy Schmidt – Dave sent Tom a letter recommending B&L for the design of the commons, the Town Board unanimously approved it. The faster we can get going, the faster we can start applying for grants, like Greenway, Member Money, CFA. Next is to get B&L to come in for a meeting to discuss next steps. Judy is looking for people from other Advisory Boards to make a sub-committee.
2. Parks, Areas, Greenway & Facilities Naming Policy & Application Form: Judy Schmidt – Dave had a couple of suggestions to take out a couple words. Judy agreed to make revisions and bring to the next meeting to vote on it.
3. Tree Inventory/Committee: Dave Pratt – Study is complete and on the town website, it is called the Community Forest Management Plan. There are links to it from the Parks & Rec and CAB advisory committees and Highway Dept web pages. We recommend that the website location be more visible, or have it's own webpage and link to the page. There is a plan to have a Tree Committee with a PRAB representative, however the Town Board will have to approve.
4. Book Nook: Tom Digati – This request is being put to rest because there have been no more inquiries.
5. Fees: Tom Digati & Joe Mentor – Department heads are coming up with proposals, bringing it to the Town Board and then will come back to PRAB for review. Tom has brought this process to the Town Board and they approve.
6. Demolition of Nike Base buildings: Tom Digati – John or engineering department was going to reach out to the State Historic Preservation Office to see if they can take down the

buildings. Tom is unsure whether this happened or not. Discussion among PRAB members said that SHPO has already been asked this question and we need clarification on if demolition is allowed for each building.

7. Senior Center staffing: Jen Mentor – Two part time people were hired. There are 5 full time and 5 part time employees now. Tonawanda has 2 full time and 2 part time and another 2 part time drivers. Senior Center should be at full capacity now.
8. Parks Masterplan: Judy Schmidt - Last time we did a full master parks plan was 1992. The town has a little over 800 acres of land, this doesn't include state land. Dave suggested we try to come up with a plan, working with the Department Heads on what their needs are and what they think we should try to develop. Plans for a Community Center were created in 2017. Joe and Jen have given us their wish list last year. Now if the Senior Center goes to River View Development, we need to relook what a Community Center would look like. We are requesting that Tom Cecere provide a report of what he is looking for in all of the Parks and greenspaces on Grand Island.
9. \$125K for Nike Base: Tom Digati – looking for approval to get the work done by 1/20/24. We can only use the grant money on the items that were originally proposed. The originally proposed dog park will not be possible now. It may be possible to change the proposed items with approval from funder. The desire is to have a pavilion installed. There has been an amendment submitted for a pavilion, which would take up all of the grant funds. Bocce Ball courts are also being requested. We can make plans to put in Bocce Ball for next spring. Talk about location and get it on the schedule for next spring.
10. Community Senior Center Update- : Tom Digati

New Business –

- Tom Cecere completing a wish list for parks
- Bocce ball court for spring time installation, need to plan
- Accessible van for senior center, where do we stand with this?
- Fishing Line bins are needed at Fisherman's Landing, GI Parks Dept. should be able to empty them. Niagara River Greenway can purchase. Are there cameras at Fisherman's landing? Reports of suspicious activity have come in.
- Youth Advisory Board, is a line item under Parks & Recreation for \$3,000 every year. Where is the Youth Advisory Board?

Next Meeting: October 24, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM - Motion to adjourn by Judy, and second by Beverly, all approved.