



Meeting Notes

Grand Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRB)

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

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 October 23, 2023

Location: Town Hall – Conference Room

Present – David Pratt, Judy Schmidt, Michelle Lockett, Ray Billica, Sam Clarke, Joe Killian, Jason Ellis, Tom Digati, Joe Menter, Tom Cecere

Absent – Beverly Kinney, Jen Menter, Matthew Pfeil

Meeting called to order: 7:01

Approval of the September 2023 minutes -

Ray motioned to accept minutes with revision, Sam Clarke second. All approved

Old Business

1. New PRAB Member: Jason Ellis introduced and welcomed as an alternate. He is the second alternate, so there would need to be two people absent, for his vote to count.
2. Open Space Committee w/ Guest Diane Evans: (Michelle Lockett & Sam Clarke) – Diane Evans explained the process of drafting the Open Space Plan RFP. For background, the Conservation Board was charged with creating an Open Space Index and they worked with WNY Land Conservancy to create this index back in 2018. The Open Space Inventory is on the GI town website for review. CAB is now charged with creating an Open Space Plan, Diane invited most of the advisory boards to help create an Open Space Plan committee consisting of, Diane Evans, Paul Yaeger, Roger Cook, Kristen Cascio, Michelle Lockett, Brad Bowman, and Amy Stockinger. Sam Clarke will also be joining the OSP committee. The committee has spent time researching other plans from all over NY state and reviewing the NY State Open Space Planning Guide and had meetings with DEC and town representatives that worked on Open Space Plans. The draft RFP was created by using two Open Space Plan RFPs that were created by two NY towns similar to GI population size and also are next to a river front. The creation of a Natural Resource Index is the next tool that we need to include in the Open Space Plan. The Conservation Board has already started compiling the resources and data we have already for the NRI. Right now there is no funding for the OSP. Once proposals are submitted and an estimate for the project is acquired, funding can then be pursued.
3. Town Center Update (Tom Digati and Judy Schmidt): - Spoke to Nicole from Barton & Loguidice. Doing what the town asked them to do is going to result in a change of scope to the contract, which will have to be approved by the Town Board. The scope of work will

now provide us with pictures and perspectives and plans in a technical memorandum and not a 60% design. This is not going to impact the need to seek grant money. We just need something that will assist with finding funding. This drawing will be helpful to bring to the community to show the concept. Cost estimates and preliminary SEQR. The deliverables will still help complete the CFA application.

4. Remembrance Wall at Veteran's Park (Tom Cecere & Tom Digati): Approved
5. Demolition of Nike Base Buildings (Tom Digati, Tom Cecere & Jen Mentor): Town Board has our recommendation to demolish the buildings. The town grant writers should be able to suggest where potential funding might be to knock down the buildings and the likelihood of getting those grants. Tom has inquired with SHPO again and he will speak with the grant writers.
6. \$125K for Nike Base Improvements (Tom Digati): Communication was received on Oct. 2, asking for additional documentation about the shelter, bocce ball and horseshoe pit. Communication suggested approval upon receiving documentation and answering a few questions. The town sent information on the trail development expenditures.
7. PRAB review of proposed fees (Dave Pratt) – The Dept. Heads are submitting their proposed fee schedule to the Town Board by Oct. 31, then PRAB will get to review and comment on the Town Board's recommended fee schedule.
8. Off Island fee (Tom Cecere & Joe Mentor) – Dept. heads share with Town Board and then it will come back to PRAB for review and comment.

New Business: No new business

Town Department Head Reports

- Town Board Liaison Report (Tom Digati): Nothing beyond what was already discussed.
- Recreation Supervisor (Joe Menter) – Enrollment is good for youth programs. there are waiting lists due to space limitations. Leadership staff need to have Youth Mental Health Youth Training. Dave suggested Joe work with Celia, to find appropriate Training.
- Senior Services (Jen Menter)
- Parks Crew Chief (Tom Cecere): fees – finished all athletic field renovations. This year they will start spraying the park with herbicides, then will fertilize. Finished drainage around Havenwood Park. Winterize mobile bathroom trailers. Turning over all the vehicles to be ready for winter, putting plows on. There is a problem with Canadian Geese at Vets Park, leaving droppings all over path and equipment. They could have them labeled a nuisance, which would allow gun control or another option is to use dogs. DEC recommended having them shot down. Riverwood Golf course has used dogs in the past and has had great success.

Adjourn –Motion to adjourn Sam, second Ray Adjourned 8:35 PM

Next Meeting: Monday November 27, 2023, 7:00pm GI Town Hall