



# Meeting Notes

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

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**Members:** David Pratt, Chair | Judy Schmidt, Vice Chair | Michelle Lockett, Secretary | Matthew Pfeil | Ray Billica | Beverly Kinney

**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 January 23, 2023

Location: Town Hall – Conference Room

In attendance – Dave Pratt, Judy Schmidt, Michelle Lockett, Beverly Kinney, Tom Cecere, Jen Menter, Joe Menter, Tom Digati

Excused – Ray Billica, Matt Pfeil

Absent –

Meeting called to order: 7:01

Approval of November minutes – Motion to approve by Beverly, Judy second motion – All approved with amendment that James Szakacs should be taken off as absent from November meeting notes.

### Old Business

- Town Center Update:** Tom Digati and Judy Schmidt – Barton and Lajoudice did visit the town commons and walked the grounds with Tom Cecere, Dave Cole and Dick Crawford. There were two meetings, one in November and the other on Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>. Doing inventory of existing conditions and looking to have that done by Feb. A meeting with the subcommittee (Jen Pusatier, Dave Cole, Dick Crawford, Tom Digati, Judy Schmidt, Tom Cecere, and Pete Marston) will be set up in early Feb. Next phase will be the town reviewing and editing the scope of work.
- Naming Policy:** Judy Schmidt – Naming is on hold until a policy has been adopted. Judy will resend the example policy for PRAB members to vote on at the February meeting, so the Town Board can adopt in March.
- Remembrance Wall:** Tom Cecere – Many residents want to put more memorial benches and trees up at Veterans Park, however there isn't enough room anymore at Vets, so they would like to put a memorial wall up for Grand Island residents. An email went out to inquire about permission and funds for such a memorial wall in mid-November, we are waiting on an answer. Tom Digati will work on moving this along.
- Tree Committee:** Dave Pratt Tree Keeper Software link:  
<https://grandislandny.treekeepersoftware.com/index.cfm?devicewidth=136>  
The December meeting was canceled, next meeting is this coming Thursday. The inventory identified places where the town could use some trees. They applied for a grant to purchase trees, however they were denied.

5. **Demolition of Nike Base Buildings:** Tom Digati – Tom will be inquiring with Peter Godfrey about this. Looking for confirmation on whether the town can tear down the building with their own funds without SHPOs approval. As long as grant money is not used to pay for removal, approval shouldn't be needed. Dave sent the recommendation letter to Tom Digati, he delivered to the Town Board who sent it to the town attorneys, still waiting to hear what the decision will be.
6. **Parks Master Plan:** Judy Schmidt & Tom Cecere – Judy would like to tie this into the Open Space Plan and believes a planner could be contracted to do both plans. From our last meeting we discussed the idea of not spending a lot of money on another plan, but focus on implementing the things that need to get done now on both the Parks and Rec sides. The idea was discussed that the existing 6 tennis courts, could be turned into 2 tennis courts, 4 pickle ball and a couple bocce ball courts. Tom Cecere presented his list of needed items.
7. **\$125K for Nike Base Improvements:** Jen Menter, Joe Menter & Tom Cecere – The application proposal has changed several times since the initial application went in 7 years ago. Bocce, horseshoe, dog park, golf course, trails and general park amenities were originally on the initial application. A request to extend the grant funds to 1/30/24 has been submitted. Rec Dept. is waiting on the funders to say that they can use the money on a pavilion. Engineering has already given an informal ok on the location of the pavilion. The location needs to be determined in order to plan for where the bocce ball and horseshoe pit goes.
8. **Fishing Line Disposal at Fisherman's Landing:** Michelle L. – Boy Scout Troop 630 will be making 5 or 6 fishing line bin receptacles and one will be going at Fisherman's Landing. They will be building them over the winter to install in the spring.
9. **PRAB Recruitment:** Tom Digati – an Ad will be going out to look for new members.
10. **Open Space Committee:** Michelle attended first meeting. The committee will be looking at other town plans and the state guides to making open space plans. The plan is to have open community input sessions and put out an RFP for a contractor to write the plan.
11. **Miracle League** – did they get \$1Million? They are looking to put in security cameras, raising the fencing, put in netting and then if they have money left they can start talking about what kind of splash pad could be put in. Everything will be run by the town first.

### New Business

1. Snow Mobile Club emergency response – this wouldn't necessarily be the town's responsibility to organize the Snowmobile Club to have an emergency response team. It is really an emergency services responsibility.
2. AED devices at Parks & recreation facilities – there is one at Senior Center, and at Community Center. Joe and Jen are trained. Joe can train instructors the basic course for first aid, CPR, AED, basic life support. Jen's staff will be recertified through Joe on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Vets Park has two, one at Miracle League and one at the little league concession.

Town Board Liaison Report (Tom Digati): No other updates, other than what had been previously discussed

### Town Department Head Reports:

- Recreation Supervisor (Joe Menter) – Open House at Nike Base, put on by Parks, Golden Age and Recreation, Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>. Goal is to get people out to use the trails and has grown into an outdoor recreational expo. Activity Center, Golden Age Center and Community Center will be open. Parks and Rec Advisory Board, Conservation Advisory Board, Snowmobile Club, Eco Island, Scouts, Greenway, WNY Land Conservancy, Ted Kessler /DEC (fishing), NYS Parks Interpretive Office, and Wildlife Coalition have been invited to table. Two guided trail hikes, Joe

Killian, Diane Evans, Paul Yaeger. There will be a scavenger Hunt, and lunch to purchase. Tom Cecere will get the big Grand Island trails map printed for this event.

- Senior Services (Jen Menter) – Chicken A La King and Chili sale during the March 5<sup>th</sup> event. Scavenger hunt going on inside and out. Games and activities. Two support groups in Jan. with Alzheimer association and a general support group. Erie County senior services continuation of Matter of Balance exercise class. Volunteers made 1,081 items of hats, scarves and mittens to give out to community, they will be recognized on Jan. 31. Working on getting Feed More food truck to come once a month, brings healthy fruits and veggies to community.

- Parks Crew Chief (Tom Cecere) – Busy with snow removal, spent 20 hours alone at Nike Base. Also busy cutting up fallen trees. Waiting for the ground to freeze at Nike Base so they can get back with the equipment to trim areas around the edges of the trail. They also are servicing their equipment.

Motion to Adjourn by Beverly and Judy second.

End Time: 9:01

Next Meeting: 2.27.23