



Meeting Notes

Grand Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)

Members: | David Pratt, Chair | Judy Schmidt, Vice-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: March 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Location: Town Hall – Conference Room

In Attendance: David Pratt, Judy Schmidt, Natalie Grunzweg, Tom Cecere, Michelle Lockett, Joe Menter, Lisa Hauss, Tom Digati

Approval of the February, 2022 minutes – will be completed next meeting

Old Business

- Town Commons Park Concepts – three organizations presented their capabilities and ideas for a concept design of the Town Commons.
- Three members from Barton and Loguidice, Matt Zarbo – born and raised on GI, Dave Haney, Nicole Cleary. Buffalo office has 15 people.
 - o Elements identified ADA pathways, multi-generational, pavilions, small scale picnic pod or bigger scale. Possible materials for pathway porous rubber, Flexipave, or stone dust. Possible accent lighting, street scape lightening. Opportunity for educational interpretive signage. Creek rehabilitation opportunity for environmental stewardship.
 - o Survey monkey or social pinpoint to have public inform project. Collects geospatial data.
 - o Turn current creek condition into a real asset. Sediment removal, remove cattails, natural channel design to stabilize the bank. Will look into culverts and adding the right vegetation. Experience with daylighting creeks. Renderings to give the public a good idea of what it could look like.
 - o Success at bringing funding to clients. They have helped their clients get over \$200 Million dollars over the past 10 years. They have grant writers that help.
 - o Potential for a storm water drainage study, they have internally discussed this. Grant program through NY DEC to do a storm water study through CFA. They could do a drone study.
 - o Concern about garbage getting stuck in the cattails and flooding. They would like to put in hard surface in the creek, flat stones.
 - o Will look at a band shell and berm type seating.
 - o The concept plan, 30% of concept design – no construction details to get a implementation bid. However, the estimated cost that will be adequate for grants.
- Joy Kuebler – Landscape architect. Has had her practice for 20 years, staff of 5. Office in NT. She prides her practice on community engagement. She thinks the community engagement process is very important to get the project to truly represent what the community wants. They start with this process first. Use team building exercises, similar to what an organizational development group might do. From there they do traditional

construction designs, bids, can do construction management. She has even done onsite tours of the construction as it is happening to receive community feedback and possibly adjust project if possible.

- Environmental Design Research out of Rochester is the arm of the team to do engineering analysis and design for creek. Will do community walk around project site, including town departments to learn about hydrology history.
 - A group of 15 – 20 is a good size for a community engagement experience. Mission, vision, opportunities and challenges are all developed through her team building exercises. These exercises also help identify the real constraints.
- Wendel – David Kenyon, Ericka. Multi discipline firm, have everything under one roof.
- GI Town Hall has ample space, however newcomers have a hard time understanding what is around you in this space, like the strong traffic patterns around Town Hall.
 - The creek is an asset, however requires maintenance. The Town Commons sign is underwhelming. Wants to make it feel like a town park, not adjacent to a busy road.
 - Could consider low mow areas with wild flowers. They will design to our needs, not what they think will be great.
 - It needs a sense of arrival, a sense of space. Site lighting could be critical, should be accent lighting. Illuminate trees, gazebos, other features.
 - Wendel is service oriented, going after good clients. They would put stone into the creek and some vegetation.
 - Work in a buffer that could capture the wind and debris coming from the west.
 - Possibility of a main paved path and then some limestone paths coming off of it.
 - Potential for Food Truck space.
 - Ability to make renderings for grant applications.
 - Experience with ecological conservation projects along waterways.

The advisory board discussed the pros and cons of each designer. Everyone thought Barton and Loguidice would suit the Town's needs the best because they came prepared with design options, knowledge of the flooding problems and offered service with grant identification and preparation. The board members who were unable to attend meeting, can view the recording of the presentations and ask any questions they might have.

New Business

- Parks, Areas, Greenways/Spaces & Facilities Naming Policy (Judy Schmidt) – Judy shared with the board a draft policy for naming trails, parks or facilities. ***Board members need to review and send any edits to Judy before our next meeting in April because we need to get the policy in front of the Town Board in May.***
- Sidewalk, Bike Path and Trails Committee report (Judy Schmidt) – Good meeting, excited about what we can do inhouse. Three kiosks going in Nike Base, as Eagle Scout projects. CAB wanted to name trails, so the Parks and Rec Advisory Board will develop a policy to name GI Trails. The foot bridge within the Nike Base Trails will be dedicated to Dorothy Westhauser and the White Trail will be named after Ron Rezabek. It was decided that the trails wouldn't be named after people that were still living, however there are intentions to keep some trails unnamed for future dedication. We need to get this policy to the Town Board by the May Town Board meeting. The policy will be finalized at the April meeting.

Town Board Liaison Report (Tom Digati): Nothing to report

Town Department Head Reports

- Recreation Supervisor (Joe Menter): New Community Center Rental Agreement, needs to be updated by removing Covid language, it was suggested to change some language to a more generic version of following all Public Health Guidelines, in case of any sort of health crisis. Rental fees are increasing by 30%, the Community Room is now \$40 an hour to rent for residents or \$150 a year for 12 blocks reserved up front. Minimum wage 1st year employees get paid \$13.10, this wage increased and is why the rental prices are going up. Last year's fee of \$30 an hour to rent the community room does not cover the cost of staff who are there for an extra hour to an hour and a half longer than the group renting. Community Service groups will cost less because they open and close the room and clean. Non-residence rate will be higher, \$80 an hour. Non-residents cannot book a room prior to 45 days out. Michelle motioned to approve the changes and Lisa second. Unanimous vote to approve. Joe will bring new Agreement to town board.

- Senior Services (Jen Menter) – not present

- Parks Crew Chief (Tom Cecere) – Tom presented a QR code image printed on a plate, that was created from the tech department at GIHS. The QR codes will go to descriptive information about different points of interest within the Nike Base Trails. Students from the drama club will narrate the information. Tom asked Judy if they can have space on the Town Website to put the information for the Nike Base. We could also do this for the Scenic Woods trails environmental facts. The plaques for the dedications signs for the trails, cost approximately \$850 each.

Adjourn: Judy motioned to adjourn at 9:34 PM and Lisa second.

Next Meeting: April 25, 2022