



# Meeting Minutes

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

**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: April 24, 2023

Location: Town Hall – Conference Room

In attendance: Dave Pratt, Judy Schmidt, Michelle Lockett, Tom Cecere, Ray Billica, Matt Pfeil, Bev Kinney, Joe Menter, Pete Marston

Call to order 7:02

Approval of the February 27, 2023 minutes – Judy motioned to approve, Bev second, all approved

Old Business

1. Town Center Update: Tom Digati and Judy Schmidt – Meeting on March 27 with Barton and Loguidice - There is a revised concept. The original skating loop trail came back at \$700,000. An oval 80 x 44 feet removable ice rink will be around \$90,000. The area where it will go is 170 x 90 feet loop. Ideally it should be on a hard surface. It could go on a GeoGrid, which will be a pervious surface. It will have chillers and will remain frozen up to 55 degrees. Their creek engineer hasn't been able to make the meetings so no new information on how they plan to fix the creek flooding. Looking for them to get to a basic plan for the ADA path and furnishings so we can look for funding for the actual project. The paths they currently have in the design are a little too wide, need to be a bit more narrow.  
Ray suggested we focus on finalizing the plans for the Town Center, paths, ice rink and other amenities, and keep the creek restoration separate. Town highway and engineering departments are involved in design.
2. Remembrance Wall: Tom Cecere – Still waiting for approval from Town Attorney. Parks is planning on building this wall in Vets park and wondering why we need to clear it with the town attorney. Tom said it was going to be on the Town Workshop agenda, need to find out from Tom where we are with this.
3. Clean-Up Grand Island: Dave Pratt – This Saturday 4/29, along with Chamber, Parks, Conservation Advisory Board and Clean Up committee. There is a google map of the locations and registration is on the Event Brite, Also a Nike Base Commemoration and seedling distribution of sycamore, eastern pine and tulip tree. Possibly have the signs inside the Community Center with pictures of the site because it will probably be raining and/or wet trails.

4. Demolition of Nike Base Buildings – One building is already condemned and the other we need to confirm if it is condemned or not. Will the Town pay for the demolition? The quote two years ago was \$50k or \$70k.
5. Parks Master Plan: Judy Schmidt & Tom Cecere – Looking to get a planner to work on this and the open space plan to do one plan all together. Funding could possibly come from the county. A Park's Master plan is important when going for grant funding. There was a report from CPL on all the parks. There was also a lot of information gathered for the comprehensive plan. There is concern that the Town will not follow the plan in the future. However sometimes the plans are not practical and wind up being changed. Next step is to co-ordinate with the Open Space Committee.
6. \$125K for Nike Base Improvements – The cost of the Pavilion was going to eat up most of the grant. Bocce and Horseshoe is so small it could be covered by the budget. Is there more money to build a Bocce court and Horseshoe pit. We are waiting for the Dormitory Authority, Tom or another elected official should contact Morinello to see if he can push it along.
7. PRAB Recruitment – Three candidates, we need a regular member and two alternates. Tom Digati needs to bring them in to interview the candidates. Dave Pratt would like to be involved. Chairman and liaison and any town board member or PRAB member should be allowed to attend the interviews.
8. Open Space Committee: Michelle Lockett – Team is working on drafting an RFP for an Open Space Plan. The Open Space Plan will include an overall Parks Master Plan. These two plans should be combined and reported on together.
9. Miracle League: \$1,000,000 for improvements – The money that Miracle League was given had to forfeit the money to the town, however we don't know how much. Kevin Hardwick had awarded the money, through American Rescue Plan and Erie County Legislature. Kevin is no longer responsible for this. Improvements to the field and a splash pad is what it was originally for. We need to check if the Town does indeed have the money before checking with Hardwick. The security cameras at Miracle League were broken and the police said there was nothing they could do. The police told Miracle League that they can bill the parents for the damage but they cannot make them pay.
10. Fishing Line Disposal at Fisherman's Landing: Michelle L. The Fishing Line Bin will be installed tomorrow at Fisherman's Landing.

#### New Business

1. GI Conservation Group & native plants presentation: Michelle Lockett – There will be a native plant event on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 at the Community Center at Nike Base. This event is co-sponsored by the Conservation Advisory Board, Parks & Rec Advisory Board and a new conservation volunteer group. The event will include a talk by two native plant experts, native plant vendors and a design workshop with help from experts. After we will have a guided walk of the Nike Base Trails for anyone interested.

Town Board Liaison Report (Pete Marston): GI Design & Performance Standards – East River and Whitehaven property, Golf View PDD project will add many trails. It is a high-density plan with very little greenspace. The Planning Board approved the Zoning change for the area. They did not approve the project yet. PRAB comments will come in the future. Long Range planning

committee has been working diligently design standards. Commercial developments and hamlets will have visual design standards. Residential design standards will be considered next.

#### Town Department Head Reports

- Recreation Supervisor (Joe Menter) – Community Center is getting booked up, they have 2 or 3 parties a weekend. The first week of March on a Sunday, was a Nike Base Open House. Feedback from people and vendors was good. Paul Yaeger donated some carvings. Doing it on a Saturday might be better. The interpretive signs look great on the trails. Golden age received 5 new members at the Open House. Sports Craze filled up with younger kids really fast. The older kids Sports Craze only has maybe 20 spots left. Golf and swimming lessons are filling up. There are 25 open spots for staff. Easter Egg hunt had well over 900 people. Went through 7,000 easter eggs and 1,400 crafts at the library.

- Senior Services (Jen Menter) – Potluck dinner coming up and University educational classes. Considering having the club selling craft items on Wed. at Town Hall. They made almost \$1,000 at the Easter Egg event.

- Parks Crew Chief (Tom Cecere) – Opening up all the bathrooms and drinking fountains. They acquired a bathroom trailer from the schools. Getting the fields ready. Waiting for fields to dry out to paint the soccer fields.

Roundtable – Need to contact Chamber about missing things in the Discover GI booklet, like the Trails, and the Parks Dept. phone number. We should update the map to include Town Parks, and maybe a website address or QR code with more information about our trails. Can the chamber add another map with trails?

Adjourn – Ray motioned to adjourn and Beverly second at 9:06

Next Meeting: Monday May 22, 2023 7:00pm GI Town Hall