



Meeting Minutes

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: August 22, 2022 7:00pm

Location: Town Hall – Conference Room

In attendance: Judy Schmidt, Dave Pratt, Matt Pfeil, Ray Billica, Michelle Lockett, Tom Digati, Lisa Hauss

Meeting called to order at 7:12 PM

Approval of the July minutes – Ray Billica motioned to approve and Dave Pratt second.

Old Business

- **Town Center: PRAB meeting w/ Barton & Loguidice (B&L):** Tom Digati – B&L addressed the questions that the board had. Judy motioned that we send a letter of recommendation to the town board to sign the contract with B&L to move forward with the master plan and design phase for the Town Commons. Matt P. second. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved. Dave will send a letter of recommendation to Tom Digati to give to the Town Board.
- **Parks, Areas, Greenway & Facilities Naming Policy & Application Form:** Judy Schmidt – Judy distributed 2 draft documents explaining a Parks, Areas, Greenways/Spaces & Facilities naming policy and a coordinating application. PRAB will review and comment. Decisions will be made when the department heads will be available to attend a meeting, after October. Send comments to Judy in the meantime.
- **Tree Inventory Update:** Dave Pratt – 8/8 meeting was postponed. Still waiting for a rescheduled meeting time.
- **Book Nook:** Tom Digati – Judy will check with Rhonda to see if Laura Murray has called again about the Book nook. Tom D. will touch base with Laura.
- **Fees:** Joe Mentor & Ray Billica – Tom Digati and John Whitney met with Joe about fees and he plans to meet with Tom C. to assess the each departments' needs. The intention is to put together an overall fee recommendation and bring it back to PRAB to review. Ideally Tom D. would like to have this to PRAB by the October meeting.
- **Demolition of Nike Base buildings & remembrance QR codes:** Ray Billica – There is a question of how much it costs to demolish the buildings and whether we should be spending this money to fix other areas of parks and rec that is in use and needs

maintenance. Asbestos could be an issue in demolishing these buildings too. Question is should we hire a contractor to demolish or can it be done by the town? Tom Digati will take this issue to Town Board and report back to PRAB.

- Senior Center staffing: Jen Mentor – PRAB is requesting the number of part time employees needed by the Senior Center, and a better definition of what the needed FTEs are. Also, an update on the staff search is requested.
- Beaver Island discount for GI residents – Michelle suggested that if Beaver Island provided a discount to all GI residents, then ALL NYS Parks would have to provide all the residents residing in the same town/city that a park is in the same discount – this would likely be most of NY State residents. Judy recommended that we could advertise on our Town website some of the discount programs that state parks does offer – link to the NYS Parks discount programs. Ray suggested we include more information about Beaver and Buckhorn on our Town Website, the parks page. Judy said she will work on a way to include verbiage about all the facilities and amenities at the NYS Parks too.
- PRAB minutes archived by Town Clerk: Michelle Lockett - sent all previous minutes from Feb. on to Pattie Frentzel. The zoom recordings are being archived on the Town's website.
- Parks Masterplan: Judy Schmidt – The most recent parks masterplan is from a very long time ago. Discussion about why would we pay for another expensive study when we have many different studies that have not been implemented and we have many current projects, facilities or amenities that could benefit from funding for maintenance.
- \$125K for Nike Base – The Town received an extension for the funds, however the original application did not include constructing any type of pavilion at the Nike Base. The change in the project scope has not been approved yet. Bocce Ball and Horse shoe pit can be installed. Tom D. will look to see if he can send the grant to PRAB so we can review the criteria of what we can do with the money. This will be put on the agenda for next meeting and we will work with Department heads to prioritize where the money should be spent.
- Community Center: Tom Digati – Rivertown Development agreements are stagnant. The Town is still waiting to hear what the options are for the town to lease space for a community center.

New Business

- Judy – demonstrated an old historic cupola from another town and would like to do something similar with GI. PRAB would like to see it at Town Hall because that is where it came from, however this is not part of PRAB jurisdiction.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn called by Michelle and Ray second.

Next Meeting: Sept. 26th