



Meeting Notes

Grand Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRB)

Members: David Pratt, Chair | Judy Schmidt, Vice Chair | Michelle Lockett, Secretary | Matthew Pfeil | 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: 7:00pm, November 28, 2022

Location: Town Hall – Conference Room

In attendance – Dave Pratt, Judy Schmidt, Michelle Lockett, Beverly Kinney, Ray Billica, Matt Pfeil, Tom Cecere, Jen Menter, Tom Digati,

Excused – Joe Menter,

Absent –

Meeting called to order: 7:04

Approval of September minutes – Motion to approve September 2022 Meeting Minutes by Judy, Michelle second motion – All approved

Old Business

1. Town Center Update: Tom Digati and Judy Schmidt – Tom will call Barton and Loguidice contact to set up a meeting about the Town Center design. Judy would like members of EDAB, and other advisory board members to be involved in the design process. She has already spoken with Jen Pusatier, because she is familiar with previous work done on the town center design. Tom Cecere and Dick Crawford will be asked to be involved in the meeting.
2. Naming Policy: Judy Schmidt – Judy will send out the small revisions before the next meeting, so it can be voted on. Dave will give Judy a reminder in a couple weeks. Tom Cecere put forward a proposal for a remembrance wall.
3. Tree Inventory/Committee: Dave Pratt – The inventory is starting to be used productively with a software called Tree Keeper. Anyone can access but you cannot modify it. Using it to identify trees that need pruning, need to be taken down or stumps that need to be removed. The Tree Committee is looking for new members. Ray Billica is interested and will get a hold of Dick Crawford. If you search for Tree Keeper on the Town website it will come up. Judy will better position the location on the website.
4. Fees: Tom Digati – The process to evaluate fees will be townwide now. All department heads will be looking at their fees and work with Town Board on modifying and then come back to the Advisory Boards for review. This issue can be taken off the agenda until the Town Board comes back to us with recommendations.

5. Demolition of Nike Base Buildings: Tom Digati – Building 3 and maintenance building B should be considered for Emergency Demolition, it will be a faster and easier removal process. Bob Westfall has already requested approval from the Historic Preservation board to take down the buildings. The Nike Base Trail kiosk has a write up about the history of the Nike Base.
Ray and Dave will work together on writing a letter to Town Board requesting that these buildings be taken down immediately. Dave Pratt will draft the letter.
Ray made a motion that PRAB will recommend the emergency demolition of building 3 and maintenance B. Dave second it and all approved.
6. Senior Center Staffing: Jen Menter – Staffing is better, part time staff works up to 19 hours/week. She has been a great addition and covers the busiest time of their day. Jen will share her budgeted full time equivalents at the next board meeting. Her required staff time is fluid throughout the year.
7. Parks Master Plan: Judy Schmidt & Tom Cecere – Dave asked Tom to put a list together a list of things we currently need and things that he would like to see and prioritize them. Tom has put a wish list together in the past to the Town Board, and will share with PRAB. Dave Pratt suggested that we put a letter together to the Town Board asking for a priority list of items for Recreation, Senior Center and Parks.
8. \$125K for Nike Base Improvements: Jen Menter, Joe Menter & Tom Cecere – we still do not have approval to do anything other than was originally proposed; dog park, bocce ball, horse shoe, trail amenities, golf course. The amended agreement asked for a pavilion. We need to determine where the pavilion will go, so we can put the bocce ball and horse shoe pits close by. Joe can bring the quotes for the pavilion, bocce ball, horse shoes. We are waiting for the pavilion to be approved. While we wait for the Dormitory Authority to get back to us Joe can get updated quotes for the bocce ball and horse shoe.
9. Senior Center at Rivertown Center update: Tom Digati – nothing new. Can take this off until something new comes up. Tom Digati will let us know.
10. Van for Senior Center: Jen Menter – A Van is being made and hopefully will be given to the Senior Center in February, it will not be wheelchair accessible. Can hold 12 people. This has been a long time coming, since about 2019.
11. Fishing Line Disposal at Fisherman’s Landing: Michelle Lockett & Tom Cecere – Michelle is speaking with the Boy Scout Troop on Wed. and they have agreed to make and install fishing line bins in a few places around GI, and will promote the Fisherman’s Landing as one of the sites.
12. Youth Advisory Board: Tom Digati – does not exist anymore.
13. Laura Murray re “book nook” at Sturbridge – Michelle will contact Laura. If it is on Town owned park property then it is our responsibility to maintain it and take liability. Regardless of the Advisory board’s decision, the Town Board and attorneys did not think it was a good idea, and this was not the first request for a book nook that the Town received and decided it was not a good idea.

1. PRAB Resignations & Recruitment: Dave Pratt – We will have Bev Kinney take a permanent position. Tom Digati will ask Rhonda to post for new members. Lisa and James resigned. Bev will take Lisa's position in January.

New Business – remembrance program, the open space plan committee, looking for someone from this board, EDAB. Michelle Lockett is interested in participating. Open space includes parks, passive parks, privately held land, public land.

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

Town Department Head Reports

- Recreation Supervisor (Joe Menter) – excused.
- Senior Services (Jen Menter) – Offered to present her annual report that she gives to the Town Board to PRAB. Erie County Senior Service & Alzheimer's Association, providing new programs. Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner. Transported and fed 700-800 people in October. Being aware of depression issues during the holiday season, putting gift bags out to socially isolated individuals. Also putting together cold weather accessories bags for the less fortunate.
- Parks Crew Chief (Tom Cecere) – Both pavilions had the concrete floors put in. Put in another ice rink in at Kaegebein, now there are two. Just finished all the outdoor renovations, fields were winterized and winter equipment prepared for season. Decorating for light up the boulevard parade.

Motion to Adjourn by Judy and Ray second.

End Time 8:57

Next Meeting: 1/23/2022