



Meeting Notes

Grand Island Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRB)

Members: David Pratt, Chair | Judy Schmidt, Vice Chair | Michelle Lockett, Secretary | Matthew Pfeil | 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: Monday February 27, 2023

Location: Town Hall – Conference Room

In attendance – Dave Pratt, Michelle Lockett, Judy Schmidt, Matt Pfeil, Tom Digati, Joe Menter, Tom Cecere

Absent – Ray Billica

Excused – Bev Kinney, Jen Menter

Meeting Called to Order – 7:05 PM

Approval of January 2023 minutes – All approved the January 2023 minutes without any revisions

Old Business

1. Town Center Update: Tom Digati and Judy Schmidt – Committee met this afternoon. Two documents were sent by Barton & Loguidice, one shows existing features in town commons, the other was an example of what we could do, but it didn't entirely fit with our original vision. The ADA paths they proposed only went around the perimeter and we wanted them to go through the park. They also wanted to put trees along Whitehaven, which would cause problems with events held along Whitehaven. There were 3 or 4 spots dedicated to nature education plaques, bio retention areas to control flooding and a small playground was proposed. They are going to do a revised plan no later than March 27th so PRAB can look at them. The day after the PRAB meeting the sub committee will meet with Barton & Loguidice to decide on concept.
2. Naming Policy: Judy Schmidt – Judy sent the forms and policy out for PRAB to vote. Matt motioned to recommend the policy to the Town Board for approval and Michelle second. Everyone approved. Tom Digati will get it on the next work shop meeting and then the Town Board Agenda.
3. Remembrance Wall: Tom Cecere – Still waiting to hear back from the Town attorney for approval. Tom Digati will put it on the workshop agenda for this week. Looking to create a wall where residents can purchase a remembrance brick for loved ones who have passed. There has been a great demand for remembrance trees or benches at Vets Park and the park doesn't need any more trees or benches.
4. Tree Committee: Dave Pratt Tree Keeper Software link: - meetings have been canceled because of illness. Dick is speaking with GI grant consultant to find a resource for planting trees. Possible planning sites, include Town Commons, Ed Ball and Tower Park. Talking

about possibly planning something for Arbor Day. Dave Cole may be organizing an Arbor Day event.

5. Demolition of Nike Base Buildings: Tom Digati – No response from SHIPO, Ron sent a letter to DEC recommending condemnation of the MASH Building. Building 3 is already condemned. Once condemned we can apply for emergency demolition and we don't have to put it out to bid. We just need to contain asbestos in demolition.
6. Parks Master Plan: Judy Schmidt & Tom Cecere – Idea is to merge a Parks Master Plan with the Open Space Plan. This was discussed in long range planning. The plan that was done in 1992 included both Parks and Open Space.
7. \$125K for Nike Base Improvements: Jen Menter, Joe Menter & Tom Cecere – Nothing to report. Waiting on a response from NYS for approval of spending of grant money. Tom Digati will see if Morinello can inquire about when we can expect an answer. We believe there will be some money left to do a bocce ball court or horseshoe pit.
8. PRAB Recruitment: Tom Digati – We have one person interested, Joe Killian. We can interview him now.
9. Open Space Committee: Michelle Lockett – The committee met for a second time and will be meeting with the DEC on how to build an Open Space Plan. We will be working on an RFP for a consultant to help create the plan and run community input sessions.
10. Miracle League: They have \$1,000,000 for improvements, approximately \$300,000 left to build a splash pad probably where the volley ball courts are now, which would be moved. The basketball courts will stay.
11. Fishing Line Disposal at Fisherman's Landing: Michelle L. – Michelle will send Tom Cecere a picture of the bins and we can decide who will install. It might be easier for the Town to install.
12. Rec Dept & Golden Age Center Open House Sunday March 5th – There are 8 species of trees throughout the trails that will be incorporated into the scavenger hunt. There will be permanent signs by the trees with QR codes with info about the trees. Expo will run from 9 – 1. Guided trail hikes 9:30 and 11:30, one will be a short hike and one will be longer. Refreshment stage at the foot bridge over Big six mile creek. Scavenger hunt will have 30 items, some inside, some outside. There will be prizes. Senior Center will have lunch for sale.

New Business

1. Request by CAB for remembrance signs at Nike Base – The Bridge and Trail will be remembered and the signage has been decided. We could include a small QR code sticker on plaques that people can scan and read why this tree, bridge, trail, etc. was memorialized for this individual.

Town Board Liaison Report (Tom Digati): - Nothing more to discuss

Town Department Head Reports

- Recreation Supervisor (Joe Menter) – Joe has already covered everything he needed to.
- Senior Services (Jen Menter)

- Parks Crew Chief (Tom Cecere) – Have been working with Joe on the upcoming Expo. Snow removal and equipment maintenance. Have been building dugouts with a roof for Little League. They will be adding some for the two softball diamonds too.

Roundtable

Michelle suggested that we advertise the openings for the Parks and Rec Advisory Board at the Expo this weekend.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn Michelle, Judy second.

Adjourned at 8:37 PM

Next Meeting: 3.27.23