

Yorktown Recreation Commission
Thursday, November 2nd, 2023
Sparkle Lake Service Building

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Matt Talbert, Vice Chairperson Patrick Cumsikey, Commissioner Diego Jaramillo, Commissioner Joe Falcone, Commissioner Thomas Dunn, Commissioner John Campobasso

Also Present: James Martorano Jr, Superintendent of Recreation; Marissa Lieto, Assistant Superintendent of Recreation; Luciana Haughwout, Town Board Liaison

Absent: Commissioner Christine Dunn;

Chairperson Talbert called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of the October 5th Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Campobasso makes a motion to approve the October 5th meeting minutes. Commissioner Jaramillo seconds the motion. All Commissioners present vote in favor of the motion. Motion passes.

Town Budget Update: Superintendent Martorano distributes the current draft of the Parks and Recreation budget for 2024. Superintendent Martorano provides the Commission an update on the proposed 2024 revenue projections and budget.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey joins the meeting at 7:07pm.

Luciana Haughwout, Town Board Liaison joins the meeting at 7:15pm.

The Commission, Superintendent Martorano and Town Board Liaison Haughwout discuss the projected 2024 revenue projections and department budget. A Public Budget meeting is scheduled on 11/9/23.

Field Rental Rates for Legacy and Granite Knolls Turf Fields:

Proposal 1: Commissioner Campobasso proposes the following for the 2024/2025 turf field rates with all increases reflecting an increase in the amount going into the turf replacement trust:

2024
Town Sponsored Club:
\$55.00 per hour field cost
\$30.00 per hour light cost

In- Town Non-Sponsored:
\$155.00 per hour field cost
\$60.00 per hour light cost

Out-of-Town Organization:

2025
Town Sponsored Club:
\$60.00 per hour field cost
\$30.00 per hour light cost

In- Town Non-Sponsored:
\$160.00 per hour field cost
\$65.00 per hour light cost

Out-of-Town Organization:

\$225.00 per hour field cost
\$60.00 per hour light cost

\$230.00 per hour field cost
\$65.00 per hour light cost

Proposal 2: Chairperson Talbert proposes a one-time increase of \$10 for all organization levels for both field rental rates and light rates to be maintained from 2024-2026 (3-year span) with increases to be reflecting in the amount going into the turf replacement fund.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey makes a motion to implement proposal 1 for the turf field rental rates. Commissioner Campobasso seconds the motion. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey, Commissioner Jaramillo, Commissioner Campobasso, and Commissioner Tom Dunn vote in favor of the motion. Commissioner Falcone and Chairperson Talbert vote against the motion. Motion passes.

Field Rental Rates for Grass Fields:

Superintendent Martorano explains to the Commission that many grass fields get reserved without giving back time and providing opportunities for outside renters.

Commissioner Campobasso states he is against charging for grass fields and recommends that clubs pay an extra fee for overtime on weekends for field turnovers.

The Commission agrees to discuss further and vote next meeting regarding grass field rates.

Pickleball/Tennis Rates:

The Commission agrees to table until the trust is created.

Blackberry Woods Playground Unit Replacement:

Superintendent Martorano distributes numerous emails from the Blackberry Woods neighbors regarding the Blackberry Woods playground replacement that have been received. Letters distributed were from: Sarina Crisci, Liz Meier, Christine Rose, Toni Colon, Lisa Souza, and Joann Vano.

Superintendent Martorano reads the safety audit conducted by the Playground Safety Inspector regarding the violations and recommendations for the Blackberry Woods playground. There are no level 3 violations (most severe), 8 level 2 violations and 12 level 1 violations. The playground is not considered level 3 unsafe. The Safety Inspector suggests renovating the existing unit and investing money into heavier used locations with a higher need for replacement and repair such as Shrub Oak Park, Junior Lake, and Sparkle Lake.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey makes a motion to authorize the Parks Department to address the current issues of the existing playground unit. Replacement of the playground remains on pause. Motion rescinded.

The Commission agrees the Parks Department should proceed with addressing the current concerns with the existing unit at Blackberry Woods playground and the replacement remain on pause.

Chairperson Talbert expresses that there are recreation fees that have not been coming in, and that those recreation fees are not meant for playground replacement. Playground replacement should be under capital improvements.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Martorano updates the Commission on the following Recreation Events: Halloween Parade and Carnival, Holiday Lights Parade on December 2nd and the Commission should have a float. There will be a BBQ and concert at Yorktown Auto Body from 2-4 pm before the parade.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission the Tree Trust was utilized to use to fund the new trees and shrubs around Railroad Park and plan to utilize it for Shrub Oak Park.

Superintendent Martorano informs the Commission that Rob Alfano will be taking the CPSI (Certified Park Safety Inspector) course.

Legacy Field:

Chairperson Talbert provides an update to the Commission on the Legacy Field turf replacement project. A-turf won the bid.
April 1 estimate for work completion.

HESP Solar Update:

Vice chairperson Cumiskey provides an update on the HESP Solar project stating there is no contract currently.

Vice Chairperson Cumsikey expresses his concern with the possible delay of 4-6 months for the shipment of fabricated steel. HESP doesn't believe the product they use will be cause for concern, however they will not order until they have another contract.

Town Board Liaison Haughwout states the contract expired and the Town Board is drafting a new contract with HESP ad she will provide updates as she has them.

Liaison Reports:

Al French: nothing to report. Would like a dry weekend.

Jane and Walt Daniels:

Jane introduces Mike McDonald to Superintendent Martorano and the Commission. He will be taking over partial responsibilities such as interacting with Parks and Recreation and other park managers.

Jane explains they have someone taking over the responsibility of interacting with the volunteers, another individual will be maintaining the various kiosks, and will be finding people to manage the trails crew and the Boy Scouts projects.

Sylvan Glen Accessible Trail: Walt informs the Commission they got the memo from the Conservation Board but would not be able to proceed with the project until proper drainage is installed to reduce flooding in the area.

Discussion held regarding the open space fund. Town Board Liaison Haughwout explains that the revisions included repairing structures improving an open space amenity and may be helpful for future projects that qualify.

Lynne Withers:

Lynne informs the Commission she will continue to speak on behalf of the pickleball community to both the Commission and the Town Board.

Tom Regan:

Tom asks if the fence will be tightened after/during the turf replacement. Chairperson Talbert and Superintendent Martorano will be discussing this further.

Superintendent Martorano informs all the liaisons that there will be further discussion in January on the status of both Granite Knolls and Legacy projects in regards to spring schedules.

Joe Falcone:

Joe states the seniors are happy with Superintendent Martorano and are excited for the new center.

Old Business:

Superintendent Martorano updates the Commission on the Skate Park renovations. Park will be closing at end of November with the plan to finish phase 3 between November and April.

Sink Hole/settlement: Dave Paganelli will be purchasing pipe to complete the work necessary. Neither the County and State have taken responsibility so the Town will be taking on the project.

Rt 202 field lights: Plan to have materials delivered on site on December 1st.

New Business:

Nominations:

Vice Chair Cumiskey nominates John Campobasso for Vice Chair. Commissioner Jaramillo seconds the nomination. Chairperson Talbert, Vice Chairperson Cumiskey, Commissioner Jaramillo, Commissioner Falcone and Commissioner Tom Dunn vote in favor of the nomination. Commissioner John Campobasso abstained.

Vice Chairperson Cumiskey nominates Matt Talbert for Chair. Commissioner Falcone seconds the nomination. Vice Chairperson Cumiskey, Commissioner Jaramillo, Commissioner Campobasso, Commissioner Falcone and Commissioner Tom Dunn vote in favor of the nomination. Chairperson Talbert abstained.

Motion to adjourn at 9:04pm