

## **PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes**

**March 20, 2007**

A meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee was called to order on March 20, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in Sherrillbrook Park. Those present were: Bill Bonsted Omar Massoud, Lorraine Garfinkel, John D'Amore, and Mike Jeffery.

Mike Jeffery began the meeting by handing out the spring flyer. He noted that there is no public skating in April; the rink will be closing on March 31<sup>st</sup>. He then handed out the summer concert flyer and briefly reviewed the bands that will be performing. Mike Jeffery then stated that the summer flyer would be a town crier insert. It is \$2,000 cheaper than doing a direct mailer. It will be in the April issue of the town crier.

Mike Jeffery then discussed the splash pad. He stated proposals were sent out, and John D'Amore was the lowest bidder. He stated they had a pre-construction meeting. The Engineering & Highway Department were not able to attend, but they will be doing grade shots and hauling material. Omar Massoud asked who did the design of the splash pad. Mike Jeffery stated it was Parkitects. It was built into the bid spec of the playground. Hopefully the splash pad will be open before July 4<sup>th</sup>. Mike Jeffery stated he is working with someone from Fort Ricky Game Farm in regards to surfacing. He stated it has to be sealed right away. Omar Massoud asked why seal it. Mike Jeffery stated he is doing it for traction purposes and coloring. John D'Amore stated that colored concrete fades quickly. He stated there are sealers that soak in and won't hold the water on the surface, and there are some that stand on top and make the surface shinny, and that is what we don't want.

Mike Jeffery then began a discussion on the dog park. He showed the committee a lay out of the park. He stated it is a soccer field sized area broken into three partitions. There will be an access to get into the exchange area and then to the appropriate area for the dog size. Omar Massoud asked if the dogs would fight. Mike Jeffery stated they wouldn't because the dogs are on neutral ground so they are on shared territory. He stated he visited a dog park in Syracuse, and all the dogs were playing together. Lorraine Garfinkel asked about water. Mike Jeffery stated there will be a water spigot, but individuals will have to bring their own container, so the dogs are not sharing water. He then passed around a copy of the application and release form and the rules. A system will be put in place to register the applicant, and possibly take a picture id and they will receive a pass card to open the gate. He then briefly reviewed the rules. Mike Jeffery stated we will be doing the fencing ourselves. Lorraine Garfinkel asked what the surface would be. Mike Jeffery stated it would start out with grass in some areas and stone dust. The first priority is drainage. A service road will be put in first and slowly develop a parking lot. The entrance gate area will be concrete. The Animal Control Officer had suggested that the dog park be circular so that a dog will not have any opportunity to get cornered. The price will be \$35 for a New Hartford resident with one dog, \$70 for non-residents for one year. It will be \$10 off for a second dog, and the third dog will be free. Senior citizens will receive \$5 off. Bill Bonsted asked if there would be any limit on a busy day. Mike Jeffery stated he would ask the representative if the system could automatically lock after a certain number are in the park. Bill Bonsted suggested posting a maximum number of dogs, and if it is full maybe limiting the amount of time used.

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Mike Jeffery then discussed park regulations. A rule that has been a problem is that we close at dusk. He stated some athletic groups debate when dusk is and they want to remain playing on the fields. Mike Jeffery searched when the average sunset time is, and he proposed the park hours be 8:00 am to 8:30 pm from May 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup> 8:00 am to 7:30 pm September 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>. John D'Amore motioned to accept the changes and Bill Bonsted seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Mike Jeffery stated that Chief Ray Philo ask that the Phil Rayhill Memorial Trail be encompassed into the park rules so that police and animal control can enforce rules there. Also, there are no hours at the trail. Bill Bonsted recommended a sign at the entrance of the parks stating the new hours. Lorraine Garfinkel motioned to accept adding the Phil Rayhill Memorial Trail to the park rules 8l.8 a with the exception of usage hours. Omar Massoud seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Bill Bonsted then discussed the Veterans Memorial. He stated we should have a Memorial Day ceremony, hopefully every year. He spoke with the Commander of the legion, and he agreed. In the past a ceremony had been held at the legion and village park. He stated that the village green ceremony has since been canceled due to lack of attendance. He stated they might want to have it in two places again. If the weather were bad they would probably have it inside the legion. There will be a meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> at the legion and they could discuss it then. The ultimate decision would be on April 18<sup>th</sup>, when it would be voted on by the full legion membership. Bill Bonsted asked the committee if they had any ideas. John D'Amore suggested putting it in the Town Crier. Mike Jeffery stated they did not want to change what the legion does. Bill Bonsted stated that once we get through the first one, we could possibly add some money to the budget for this. Mike Jeffery stated that some of the flags are beginning to get tattered, and we should probably replace them bi-annually. Mike Jeffery stated the plaques have been proofed and are ready to be ordered and will be done in about seven weeks. Phase II would begin after the splash pad is complete. Lorraine Garfinkel asked where the pond would be. Mike Jeffery stated in the area where the cattails and current drainage are located.

Mike Jeffery then reviewed the committee posts. He proposed that we maintain and accept the committee, as they existed in the past year. He asked is anyone knew if there was anybody else interested in being on the committee. After discussion, Lorraine Garfinkel motioned that the committee chairperson and sub-committee appointments be renewed and extended for the year 2007. Bill Bonsted seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mike Jeffery then provided a brief description of the plans for the new ecology room in Sherrillbrook Park.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Owens, Secretary