

Town of Stanford
Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes

Recorded by: Sara Knickerbocker

June 6, 2022

Present: Lauren Osterman (Director), Jess Odell, Veronica Heady, Teddy Secor, Mike Denatale, Richard Bell, Charlotte Haims, Nathan Lavertue (Town Board Liaison)

Absent: Chris McNamara

Meeting begins at 6:06 PM

Sparc Park

Lauren opens the floor for members to make comments on Sparc Park after the safety report was sent via email to the Commission. Veronica asked if there was pushback on getting rid of the playground, or can we repair it. Lauren said the cost to repair the park would be almost as much as to replace it, and once repairs begin it would get the ADA involved and there are many elements of the park that do not comply with ADA regulations. There could be grant money available, but it would not be available until next year and there is no concept for the playground yet. Teddy suggested looking into Dutchess County grants. Jess commented that if the playground is replaced, she does not want to have cheesy, plastic playground. Lauren added that the company that did the safety report does have concepts that include the castle features, but in newer material. Lauren suggested keeping a portion of the playground that includes the original plaque as a nod to the community built Sparc Park. Lauren said the elements that are safety concerns are the metal slides and gravel. It was said that Wendy would like to fix it, but now that the safety report is out, it is not avoidable, and Mike added that there are far too many features with high priority safety concerns. Richard was concerned that the funds needed to replace the playground are going to be in the \$400-500,000 range and will need a lot of fundraising and is looking into various grants. Richard said there is a grant available that will reimburse the Town or private donors up to 50%. The Town may need to be involved with the finances to support this project in regards to specific grants. Charlotte asked if multiple grants could be used to fund the playground, Richard confirmed that to be true. Richard mentioned there is a \$25,000 grant that could be used on the walking path, but that will be available in 2023, municipalities are eligible on odd years. The Recreation Commission will have to give a recommendation to the Town Board after the public hearing. Charlotte asked how often do parks replace their playground equipment, because she thought it was in the 5-8 year range. Richard chimed in that if the playground just had aesthetic issues, they wouldn't change the playground, but there are legitimate safety concerns now. Lauren said if they just repaired the park, there would be serious maintenance that would need to be upkept.

Haunted Fortress

Teddy reported that the Haunted Fortress Committee is going over emergency plans, budget, and item lines. They have a meeting tonight and will have more to report next meeting. Teddy is unsure of the

number of volunteers they have at this time for production. Lauren said if Fortress can get wifi, she would be able to run the online sales at the ticket booth.

Teddy departs the meeting at 6:27 PM

Fundraising

Lauren said there were about 100 people at the kick off fundraiser last week and about \$3000-4000 was raised. Richard commented that the fundraiser was more to raise awareness that public fundraising has begun and that they want the community to get involved and gain support from the community.

Tennis Courts

Lauren said the courts have been compacted and that paving will begin soon. Once the courts have been paved they need to cure for 21 days and then it will probably be early July for acrylic.

Swimming Pond

Lauren met with Saratoga Associates to go over water clarity. The water itself is fine, no bacteria, and Saratoga Associates said the waterfront is set up well. It is the warmer weather that effects the clarity and Dan wants Lauren to keep a log of the temperature and clarity to create some data. Lauren said she will know around July 9 if they were awarded the \$100,000 grant for the swimming docks. This grant is a reimbursement grant.

Soccer

Lauren had spoke with Michael Cooper, the Recreation director in Pine Plains. They will continue to do soccer in spring at Pine Plains and in the fall at the Stanford Rec, but Lauren will need James Wiley to continue to run the program. Pine Plains will invoice Stanford for the purchase of uniforms and then Stanford will bill Pine Plains in the fall for purchasing uniforms. Richard suggested creating a letter of agreement to make sure everything goes smoothly.

Nathan departs at 6:51 PM

Summer updates

Lauren has had 3 Indeed candidates fall through, there is still no Recreation Leader position filled. Lauren could potentially hire a recreation assistant. The Rec is also in need of an assistant coach for the swim team.

Community Garden

Wendy has a group of people that are interested in running an organized community garden. The group has selected an area behind the Rec building. The Commission viewed the area and collectively decided that the area is not ideal. The Commission is concerned about upkeep, the fencing, and the basketball court being close by. The Commission would like to see the garden placed somewhere else.

PEACE Project

The Lions Club will be collecting posters created by children on "leading with compassion" throughout the summer and would like the Recreation Commission's help on facilitating interest. Kate Inzerillo from the Lions Club will come to the next meeting to elaborate. Lauren likes the idea, if the Lions Club can provide poster board and collect the posters.

Minutes Approvals

Mike motioned to approve the March 9 minutes as written, Richard seconded. All in favor, Mike, Jess, Veronica, Charlotte, Richard. Motion carried.

Mike motioned to approve the May 11 minutes as written, Jess seconded. All in favor, Mike, Jess, Veronica, Charlotte, Richard. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM

July 13 is next meeting.