

Recreation Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2023

Present: Teddy Secor, Veronica Heady, Lauren Osterman, Jess Odell, Mike Denatale, Richard Bell (phone)

Absent: Charlotte Haims, Chris McNamara

Minutes recorded by Sara Knickerbocker

Meeting begins at 6:31 PM

Commission Member Interview: Nicole Clanahan

Chris McNamara will be resigning from the Recreation Commission pending a member filling his space on the Commission. Nicole Clanahan is interviewed. Nicole tells us that she moved to Stanfordville in 2017 and part of her decision to move here was her visit to the Rec and that she loved it. She has 2 children, one in elementary and one in middle school. She is a permanent resident in Stanford and now feels comfortable with her schedule with her kids to become more involved in the community. She had helped this summer with a couple of craft activities at the Rec for land activities. Mike asked Nicole what she felt we should improve and Nicole suggested getting the land activities more involved during the summer. Nicole would like to see more youth involvement throughout the year and would like to help organize that effort. Teddy asked Nicole her background in Recreation and she explained that she went to school for early education but found other ventures, has been in daycare and education settings, but is very passionate about art and has had some art posted in Town. Nicole ran the pot painting and pea planting project at the Rec along with a slime day. Nicole would like to tie in the schools into programming as well. Lauren mentioned that the meetings are usually second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm - she has a conflict next month but should be able to commit to future meetings.

Easter Egg Hunt

The date of the Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday April 1 - 10 am. Jess said she will ask Carried Away Photography if she is interested in doing a photo opportunity again.

Update of Free Play Friday, Pickleball, and Valentines Day

The school told Lauren she can't use the gym after Feb 20 because gymnastics will be set up there until second week of April. Pickleball will probably move outside by then. Feb 17 will be the last Free Play Friday. We were able to run 4 sessions of Free Play Friday and it was a good trial run with an average of 18 kids participating each session. The principal is on board for future activities.

Lauren made craft bags for Valentine's Day that can be picked up at the library.

Capital Campaign Committee Update

Richard gave an update – he gave big news that a generous anonymous \$200,000 donation for the playground was in the works, but the attempt at the big state grant was denied, expectations

were low for the \$500,000 reimbursement, based on a 25% success rate, most don't get it the first attempt and have better luck at the next attempt. Lauren spoke with someone on the grant application team and she was told they were in the top 10, but there were minor details that needed attention and encouraged them to apply again. The next attempt would be a July application and November award – so they would not be able to break ground in the fall with that timeline. Richard mentioned it is a controversial undertaking due to the community involvement and still need to know which way people feel about the removal of the playground or if it should be just repaired. Julia has put together a task force with both new design supporters and repair only supporters and the goal is to come up with a recommendation with 12 people involving both original park construction people and newer residents. Lauren said the last meeting of this group was productive. Richard asked if it would go to bid - and Lauren confirmed it would need to go to bid. Play by Design designs are paid by Capital Campaign Committee, but the Town will pay the bill from the funds transferred from the Committee and the Town Board has the final say. This is the same company that designed the original playground, and they have a lot of experience working with volunteers and do not contract outside laborers heavily. It should be the best venue to involve as much as the community as possible. The Campaign should be able to raise the remaining funds with donations with or without the grant.

Jess asked if it is volunteer effort why does it have to go to bid, but it will cost materials. Play By Design also design schedules for kid involvement at school with a designer that interviews the kids. The design will go to a public meeting, they tweak it and then a final design will submitted to bid. They can bid on construction as well. The earliest the construction process could begin based on this design schedule is October. So, they would know if they got the grant by November/December and construction probably would get pushed to spring. So, if the grant is approved that is excellent news, but if it does not, the Committee will fundraise for the remaining expenses. The grant would allow for completion and the additional money raised could be used for other things. The grant requires upfront money which is a little more challenging and then you get reimbursed. The Town would have to front the money. Lauren said for the tennis courts they had to prove that the Town had the funds to front the money and then get reimbursed, otherwise they need to say where the money is coming from, no anonymity. Jess asked if it was April would it be done in time for summer - Lauren said yes - it should take 2-3 weeks. Richard supports slowing the process down from October to April.

Another development for the Rec park includes a donor for the skatepark that is moving ahead with only private donations, it will be done right so it lasts a long time and it looks nice. Richard said there will be a maintenance budget increase sponsored by the Committee, he hopes it will augment the Rec budget to help maintain all the new developments and programming. The Community Garden committee and conservation committee said the trail around the park should be taking advantage of the mile of water frontage as part of the watershed of the Wappingers Creek. The plantings would be a long term to make maintenance affordable over time. The park could be a destination point bringing people into Town and boost economy for local businesses.

Mike asked if it is too late to add projects to the Committee campaign and asked about getting lights for the baseball field. Lauren said it might be in the final plan already. Mike reported that batting cages going in as part of the grant Taconic Little League received. Mike asked if electronic outlets to the dugouts would be possible instead of lighting, as he would like to get that sooner rather than later.

Mike said Pine Plains Baseball offered to try and do a co-op for the area, they will meet to see if an agreement can be made. Their tee-ball is their in-house program like our Stanford program is. Soccer will run in Spring at Pine Plains.

Lauren sent out applications for summer jobs. The Assistant Rec Director is not coming back, so Lauren will start on Indeed to search for a replacement.

Mike motioned to recommend Nicole Clanahan for appointment to the Recreation Commission. Veronica seconded. All in favor, Veronica, Teddy, Jess, Mike, Richard. Motion carried.

Teddy motioned to approved January 11, 2023 minutes, Jess seconded. All in favor, Veronica, Teddy, Jess, Mike, Richard. Motion carried.

Next meeting March 8th 6:30 PM

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM