

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 26, 2023  
PORT JEFFERSON VILLAGE CENTER, HARBOR COVE ROOM**

Chairman Potter called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Trustee Sheprow, Chairman Potter, Renee Lemmerman, Dave Melious, Kathianne Snaden, Beth Capodanno, Robert Gross, Jennifer Hildreth, Kelly Juliano, Lois Kilkenny (remote), Mary O’Sullivan (alternate).

**I. Updates**

Trustee Sheprow informed the Council that Gerard Gang has resigned from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council.

**Parks**

The Council will be taking a field trip at the next meeting to view all of the parks in the Village. Members to meet at the Village Center and will take the mini bus to view all of the properties. Ms. Lemmerman will set a route. She will coordinate with Dave Melious.

**Roosevelt Park**

Trustee Snaden stated she had spoken to a parent who requested permanent soccer nets be placed at the Park on Roosevelt Ave. She is looking into grants or perhaps paying for it. A parking area (unpaved) is requested. Parking is the major concern expressed by the residents of Roosevelt Ave. Ms. Lemmerman suggested that Caroline Ave field may be a better place, however, Trustee Snaden felt that softball could be a problem. Ms. Lemmerman suggested that walking trail and passive use could be the best for Roosevelt Avenue Park. Mr. Melious and Ms. Lemmerman will discuss the best use. Ms. Lemmerman stated that Caroline Ave. is equipped with parking and lights.

**Code**

Bathrooms and tennis courts are to be closed at the same time. Code needs to be involved as there have been dogs on the tennis courts and pickleball nets have been vandalized. Ms. Lemmerman stated that lights are off at 10:00 p.m., tennis ends at 8:00 p.m., restrooms are locked at 7:00 p.m. due to excessive vandalism. Ms. Potter stated that code needs to be on foot and present. Ms. Snaden stated that code is short-handed. Unmarked units are out. Schedule cannot always be

kept due to emergencies. There is a patrol check schedule. Ms. O'Sullivan stated that code very rarely comes to the Village Center. They do not respond to calls. The safety of the children necessitates them to be at the Village Center. Ms. Lemmerman stated that the women and men at the Village Center are concerned for their safety. She is willing to forego a portion of her budget for a security person, especially needed for evenings at closing and weekends. Ms. Snaden stated that patrol checks occur in the Village where Code will walk the perimeter of your house if requested when you are away. They are scheduled to do the same at the Village Center. Ms. Snaden suggested leaving a marked car as a deterrent. Code does not start until 10:00 a.m., while children are arriving at the Village Center at 7:00 a.m. Ms. O'Sullivan reiterated that the children's safety is at risk. There are homeless trying to enter the building. Ms. Lemmerman asked for a Code satellite office to be placed at the Village Center. Ms. Snaden stated that the walking patrol had been ended by the former Chief but will be reinstated. The Code is forming a Community Relations Team, they will be on foot and on bicycles. Ms. Snaden stated that she attempted to get Peace Officer status, but that is not doing to happen. She will look into a Code Satellite Station at the Village Center. Ms. Potter stated that the code budget of \$550,000.00 is excessive for no presence. Ms. Snaden recommended speaking with the Treasurer for a line-by-line breakout of what is included in the budget. Ms. Lemmerman reiterated that the patrol checks that had been promised have not occurred. There has been no foot patrol. Ms. Snaden indicated that the Whiskey Tour will be returning to the Village, which is a huge help. Ms. Sheprow stated that she is concerned about an unpredictable event at the Village Center and safety concerns need to be addressed now, before something happens. An officer is needed during prime time. Ms. Lemmerman reiterated that she did not believe this should come from her budget, but she would be willing to help with the cost by not hiring the Recreation Aide she has in her budget.

### **Centennial Beach**

Rowing club was at Centennial Beach prior to COVID. A new contract needs to be in place. He would pay us to use the beach for the club.

### **Parks and Recreation News Letter**

Sample was distributed to the Council. Proofreading and more information will be added. It will be given to Kevin Wood and hopefully sent in the digital format with the E Report. It can be reprinted for kiosk distribution. Ms. Hildreth suggested adding employee pictures. Mr. Melious asked that his cell phone number be removed. Suggested that hours of operation be added.

## **II. New Business**

Ms. Hildreth brought up the fact that neither East or West Beach have handicap access. She was recommending removable ramps to go over the ripwrap to avoid lawsuits and injuries. Mr. Melious stated that it must be ADA compliant. Ms. Snaden stated that there may be a grant opportunity for this and agreed it is needed. Mr. Melious stated that a ramp could be used instead of steps at West Beach. At East Beach, something would be needed on the east side. Ms. Snaden stated DEC took issue when this was broached years ago.

## **III. Chairperson Discussion**

After discussion, it was decided that one of the alternates would be named to replace Mr. Gang. Ms. Potter will draft a letter to the alternates seeking a volunteer. Ms. O'Sullivan stated she would be willing to serve.

The next meeting will be held 5/31/23 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion made by Kelly Juliano, seconded by Beth Capodanno to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.