

Recreation Commission
Wednesday, November 8, 2023
6:15pm

A meeting of the Port Jervis Recreation Department was held Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 6:15pm. The meeting was called to order at 6:19pm. The following were in attendance:

John Faggione, Director	Dawn Jones
Corey Puopolo, Vice Chairperson	Stan Buczek
Melissa Newhauser, Liason	Noeleen Casey Tomasi

Absent: Brandy Figueroa, Vice Chairperson, Debbie Cunningham, Sean Addy, Ivan Figueroa, Youth Member

Public Comment:

Jason Vicchiariello, first ward resident, was present to express his concerns that other residents had reached out to him to ask why the parking lot at West End Beach was closed. He is concerned that taxpayers don't have access to the beach to fish, kayak, or to have a place to sit for lunch. He is also upset that the land that his family donated is not being used for what his family intended it to be used for. The Director of Recreation and the Commission responded to his concerns by explaining that the barricades to the park are a temporary solution until the permanent gates are installed. Barricades are there to try and prevent more vandalism to the brand new almost \$100,000 parking lot. The timeline for the gates installation is scheduled for this fall. The gates would be similar to the gates that are used at Elks Brox Park and the fire companies would all have access to the gates. Parking is still available at the bathhouse for anyone wanting to access the river for fishing or kayaking. The Commission, as a governing board, recommended that the barricades remain until the permanent gates are installed. John will include signage to indicate that the barriers were temporary.

Public Hearing:

None

Approval of Reports and Minutes from October 2023 meeting:

A motion to approve the minutes and report from October was made by Stan and seconded by Dawn.

All those in favor:

Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 3

Executive Session:

None

New Business:

John introduced Nashawn Campbell and explained that he has been recommended for the Youth Member position. He explained the responsibility of a Youth Member. A motion to appoint Nashawn Campbell to the vacant Youth Member position was made by Stan and seconded by Corey. All those in favor:

Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 3

The Youth Center will be closed from 11/20-11/24. Parents, buses, and school has been notified.

It was discussed briefly whether the parking fees at West End should be raised for the 2024 season and if the rental fees for Riverside Park be raised as well. It will be discussed further at the January meeting.

John has received a few quotes for the fencing replacement at Farnum Park alongside Canal Street. Once John receives all the necessary quotes he will work with the clerk and assistant DPW Director to remove the old fence and get the new fence installed.

Recreation Budget hearing is scheduled for 11/15 at 6:45. Two big items to be discussed are the budget for Church St. repairs and a key fob system for the Dog Yard. John is going to offer a walking tour to any current and newly elected officials to see the conditions at Church St.

Janessa Jenkins has been appointed as a long term replacement/sub Recreation Leader. She will be covering leaves and vacations for the other employees.

14 people have signed up for the January 6th Devil's game. John will advertise the game.

John would like to have food trucks at the conclusion of the 5K race. He would like to create an atmosphere that people will want to go to at the end of the race. He will follow up at next month's meeting to get the commission's thoughts or ideas.

John will get in touch with Tim Simmons to discuss the annual Polar Plunge.

A motion to appoint Brandy Figueroa as Chairperson was made by Stan and seconded by Dawn. All those in favor:

Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 3

A motion to appoint Cory Puopolo as Vice Chairperson was made by Dawn and seconded by Stan. All those in favor:

Aye: 4 Nay: 0 Absent: 3

Old Business:

The Halloween parade was a great success with close to 300 participants. Thank you to all of the volunteers.

Fall Clean at Veteran's Park went well. It was a small group but they did a great job.

The first class of Little Chefs at the Youth Center went very well. The class is full and is held every Saturday morning at 10 am. The last class is December 9.

The Stone Challenge in Elks Brox Park had a great turnout on 11/5. This event is run by the OCOPJ, and the Recreation Department assists.

John gave the Youth Center/Rec. Room update.

Dawn asked if we were going to be a drop off location for Santa's Toybox. The Youth Center will be a drop off location for the Christmas Project sponsored by the Elks.

Youth Report:

None

Public Comment:

None

**Next Meeting- Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at
6: 15 pm at the Youth Center**

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 was made by Noeleen and seconded by Dawn. All those in favor:

Aye: 4

Nay: 0

Absent: 3