

West Seneca Youth and Recreation Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm
West Seneca Community Center, West Seneca, NY 14224
Sept 20, 2023
Minutes

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Tammy called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

II. Roll Call (via sign-in sheet)

Commission member	Present	Absent (A)/Excused (E)
Tammy Sugrue, Chairperson	X	
Carol Jarczyk	X	
Michael Smolen	X	
Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty		E
Kellie Kostek	X	
Matt Bauer		A
Lauren Masset, Recreation Supervisor - Ex Officio Commission Member		E
Robert Breidenstein, Town Councilman - Town Board Liaison	X	
Brian Adams, Highway Superintendent, Ex Officio Commission Member		E
Meichle Latham, Recording Secretary	X	

- Also present: 7 members of the public; 1 student

III. Recreation Director Report

A. Rec Programming Updates [Bob]

- ✓ Preliminary end of year report for pool usage and expenses; Formal report (including aquatic staff, bonuses & feedback; limited closure details; pool passes; patrons- broken down by residents, guests, and non-residents) will be on upcoming Town Board agenda
- ✓ Note rec and pool program planning (including staffing) in progress for next season
- ✓ Budget allocations (rec programming and pool) have been submitted and Supervisor budget will be done in about 2-3 weeks
- ✓ Pending interim Recreation coverage as Lauren Masset is out on parental leave
- ✓ Sports organizations slated to continue- hockey, softball and soccer
- ✓ 10.13.23 Trunk or Treat event- anticipate 800-1,000 students

B. Feedback, suggestions/recommendations for increased improvements & efficiencies

- ✓ Tammy inquired about possibility for the addition of chairs in shade, as well as a bench in the locker rooms; Bob responded that Buildings and Grounds are exploring possibility of picnic tables in shaded areas; will forward Tammy's inquiry
- ✓ Kellie inquired about previously requested budget recommendations; Bob responded that the submitted Rec budget does accommodate both Rec Department programming Commission activities needs; Pending finalized Supervisor's budget
- ✓ Kellie reiterated recommendation for volleyball courts; Bob noted consideration for volleyball and beach volleyball courts

West Seneca Youth and Recreation Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm

West Seneca Community Center, West Seneca, NY 14224

Sept 20, 2023

Minutes

- ✓ Tammy noted having received ~130 survey responses (on-line) with feedback about community's desires for various activities; Seeking clarity about how to decipher Rec Dept-run v. Rec Commission-run activities to leverage budgeted \$\$ to accommodate communities requests/suggestions; Bob reminded all of Rec Developer funds (balance as he recalls is about \$25,000) as option for initial support of programming
- ✓ Carol suggested budget accommodate Rec Commission apparel for various events; Bob reported that concurrent discussions about such

IV. Approval of June 28th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Tammy motioned to approve; "2nd" by Kellie

V. Old Business

A. 7.15.23 Scavenger hunt

- i. Tammy & Kellie- "success!"
 - 1. Participation
 - a. 14 teams registered; 12 participated
 - 2. Varied community engagement
 - a. Town (Thanks, Amelia!), Rec Dept (Thanks, Heather!), Vigilant Fire, businesses, teens, families
 - b. 3 prizes- Pasquales, Kone King, SPOT Coffee
 - 3. Participant feedback
 - a. Do Scavenger Hunt again- walking (not interest in driving)
 - b. Provide an app for the hunt next time; paper was cumbersome
 - c. Requesting more activities like the Scavenger Hunt
- ii. **Next steps: Plan to offer Scavenger Hunt in 2024; Bob suggested select tentative date now; Avoid June b/c of conflicts with end of school year events**

B. 8.1.23 National Night Out

- i. Carol & Michael- "success!; worth doing again next year"
 - 1. Participation
 - a. Candy attracted many youth
 - b. ~43 participants completed surveys
- ii. **Next steps: Plan to participate in 2024 (Aug 6th?); Be sure to bring Rec info-programming and job opportunities**

C. 8.16.23 WSCSD on your way to K!

- i. Carol- attended; no designated space for Rec Commission; "worth doing next year"
- ii. **Next steps: Plan to participate in 2024 (Aug ___?); Consult with Marissa to gain clarity on what WSRC brings (or should bring) to "table."**

West Seneca Youth and Recreation Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm
West Seneca Community Center, West Seneca, NY 14224
Sept 20, 2023
Minutes

VI. Continued Business

*A. Playgrounds Initiative (funding for 15 years through the issuance of serial bonds)-
Phase II*

- Spring 2024 Playground Upgrades
 - Sunshine Park- design is final
 - Fisher Park
 - Finalizing (by Oct 1st) design option to support prompt equipment order and Summer 2024 build schedule/timeline
 - Engage neighborhood residents on 9.28.23 (5-7 pm) @ Fisher Playground in voting for one of two designs; Parkitechs will be on site as well
 - Mailing went out 9.20.23
 - Tammy's following up with neighborhood resident who'd contact Supervisor Dickson regarding playground

- 2025 Playground Upgrades/Designs (to be completed by Maricle)
 - Dorrance
 - Fireman's Park

B. Halloween/Dance

- a. Due to timeline and no prior planning, forego for this year
- b. **Next steps: Carol will follow-up (as Kellie recommended) with SRO about idea of a winter dance instead**

C. Commission-led Activities/Events

- a. Surveys
 - ✓ Distribution (with QR code)-
 - Tammy put survey out on Town's social media; Lauren put on website; QR code was in West Seneca Bee
 - ~ 175 Combined (hard copy and on-line [links to Google Forms]) responses thus far
 - ✓ Results review; Establish action plan to triage recommendations for proposal to Town (highlight a few recommended activities for the Board to consider & support)
 - ✓ **Next steps:**
 - **Tammy will send summary of survey responses to Rec Commission members for review, propose top 3 priorities that can be acted upon now (via Rec Dept, Senior Center, or Rec Commission, etc.) as recommendation for proposal for Town support**
 - **Will continue to distribute (Hard copies in high traffic areas- Rec Office, Senior Center; flyer with the QR code on it to be**

West Seneca Youth and Recreation Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm
West Seneca Community Center, West Seneca, NY 14224
Sept 20, 2023
Minutes

posted; the WS Bee) for comprehensive (all ages) community engagement

b. Trivia Night

✓ Next steps: Carol, Tammy, & Michael will work on ideas/plan

VII. New Business

A. *Budgeted allocations (TBD) for Rec Commission events*- Bob reported in Recreation updates

B. *Pool admission policies*- input suggesting that residents should be charged more

a. Exchanged suggestions regarding modifications to fees for 2024 pool usage

i. Residents to use at no charge

ii. Non-residents/guests- increase fees in 2024; Kellie suggested \$10

b. Next steps:

i. Await budget to make specific dollar recommendations

ii. Revisit effective and efficient residency verification process

C. *WSYBA (Baseball group)*- Vincent Vanderlip & Ricky Albano

a. Raised safety concerns (fencing & pitted outfield) about & requested Town's assistance to repair to baseball diamonds- specifically Centennial Field, the single officially-recognized field

i. Complimented Town's Buildings and Grounds crews- done the best with what they have

ii. Requested that fields be looked related to identified concerns

iii. Requesting additional resources/support to address concerns

iv. Recommending WSYBA + School + Town shared responsibility in care of baseball fields

b. Offered explanation of Association, current relationship with Town and utilization of the Town's fields

i. Association= ~ 300 athletes;

ii. Invested ~ \$85,000 into Town's baseball facilities/fields over the last 5 years (e.g. batting cages @ Fireman's ~\$25,000 + Harlem, Dirkson, & Fireman's baseball diamonds- added concrete pads near benches)

iii. Use about 7 fields- respective to ages and levels of play

c. Next steps: WSYBA will email list of fields, respective concerns and requested priorities for investment to the Youth Rec Commission email

VIII. Commission Member Comments- None

West Seneca Youth and Recreation Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm
West Seneca Community Center, West Seneca, NY 14224
Sept 20, 2023
Minutes

IX. Public Comments (3 min. time limit/person)

A. Courtney Fallon

- a. Recommended pool safety plan be revised prior to Summer 2024 to reflect true operating practices, ensure safety and accommodate capacity
- b. Expressed concerns about pool-related safety violations she'd identified
- c. Advocated for foresight and proper swim instructor training to accommodate offering swim lessons in summer 2024
- d. Requested that 12.1.23 date for Summer 2024 Rec Programming be extended
- e. As referenced in earlier part of meeting, added info. about dances:
 - i. Stated that in past, there were several junior high dances/year, which were very popular, especially for grades 6-8
- f. Read 2 statements she noted having had received from others
 - i. Mike Talluto: Advocacy for expanded recreation programming/return for previous programs
 - ii. Jim Randolph: Advocacy for Town to reverse decision/rescind vote about closing the pool
- g. With concern that ill-informed decisions regarding pool fees could compromise ongoing funding to support town facilities, shared desire for a "Pool" agenda item

Meeting adjournment: Adjourned at 7:43 pm- Tammy motioned; "2nd" by Carol

Next meetings: TBD- Tammy will explore dates and locations and engage commission members for October scheduling

*** Final meeting of the year- November 15 at 6:00 pm (Regular Meeting) (CCL Large Room)**

- Tentative/proposed agenda- Rec Director report, Commission member reports/comments. Complete and submit annual report (include survey results)