

**MINUTES OF THE  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 23, 2023  
AMENDED**

PRESENT: Peter Cipriano, Daniela Goldman, Ian Harris, Meg Kaplan, Nicole Caviola, Mary Shah

ZOOM: Valerie Cancro, Jennifer Cayea, Rich Ellrodt, Melissa LeSavage

ABSENT: Jennifer Castelhano

GUESTS: Ted Lawrence and Joe Kesselmark, 9ers Baseball and Farmer's Grind

Meeting started at 7:30PM at the Lewisboro Parks and Recreation Department Office located in the Onatru Farm Park Main House.

**I. Minutes**

Motion made by Ian Harris, seconded by Meg Kaplan to accept the minutes of the January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Parks and Recreation Advisory Council meeting as amended.

**II. New Business**

1. Ted Lawrence and Joe Kesselmark from 9ers Baseball - Ted Lawrence stated that about six years ago this was started as a summer business and continued on to year round training and travel teams. They started visiting different towns to try to begin a partnership with hopes of bringing field improvements to that Town. They have met with Southeast and Patterson. But even though the Towns were supporting their ideas, Little League did not. Ted Lawrence has been hired by John Jay High School as their varsity baseball coach. If the Town is willing to join this partnership, they would like to upgrade fields at Fox Valley - turf fields, make 2 smaller upper fields, add dugouts and fencing, batting cages, add lighting, pave parking lot, possibly add a dome and a small building. In exchange, they

would ask for 50% of prime time - Monday to Friday from 5:00PM - 10:00PM and Saturday and Sunday from 8:00AM - 10:00PM. This would account for 50% of all space 50% of the time. As of now the 9ers have approximately 85-90 children in the programs from different Towns such as Ridgefield, Wilton, Somers, Mahopac to name some. There is a small percentage of players from this Town. About 5 out of 85 are Town residents. They are also asking for a 25-year lease. Ted also stated that he was brought to the Town by Jim Moreo.

They would also like to light the fields which could be challenging. The question then arose as to how did the Town acquire Fox Valley and develop it. No one knew the answer.

Questions asked:

How they would fund this project and they stated that their capital has been given to them by investors.  
Would the Town incur any costs? No

In a project of this size, many departments within the Town would need to get involved along with our cooperating agencies such as Lewisboro Baseball Association, John Jay Youth Lacrosse, John Jay Softball and John Jay Futbol.

This would totally change Fox Valley Park. How would the residents feel about this?

2. The Farmers Grind - Paperwork for a peddler's permit and events have been applied for at Vista Park. They would like to hold events at Vista Park on eight Saturday evenings during the summer months starting in June and ending in September. They would like to have food trucks, band/music and serve ice cream.

The only conflict that appears is September 9<sup>th</sup> which is the Library Fair Day. The Library Fair is from 10:00AM to 4:30PM which would not interfere with the time except for those doing cleanup of the fair.

They are looking to have one food truck per night.

3. Vista Hamlet Stewardship Council - They have formed a 501C(3) and are looking to do fundraising events at Vista Park. These funds would be used for the improvement of the park. They would like to do an egg hunt as well as a movie night.

### **III. Old Business**

Valerie Cancro reported on the following:  
Met with Joe and George for the bench placement.  
They are collecting photos of the old playground.  
Met with Tony and the Lion's Club to get ideas in refurbishing the pavilion.  
They are putting mats in the GaGa pit.

### **IV. Recreation Supervisor's Report**

Teen Treks registration was held on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.  
There will be one 5 day bus and two 3 day buses.  
A non-formal bid for the pickleball courts will be going out for budgetary numbers only.  
Capital plan projects in the amount of \$367,000 will come from ARPA funding.  
Currently working on the Spring/Summer program brochure.  
Basketball - this coming weekend is the last weekend of regular play before we go into playoffs.

### **IV. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM. The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Council will be held on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Laura A. Stone*

Laura A. Stone  
Senior Office Assistant

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