

Town of Amherst Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
5:00pm via Zoom

Attendees:

Tony Day (excused)
Dick Duquin
Tim Gardner
Pam Hart
Kim Kriner
Michael MacDonald (excused)

Guests:

Erik Riffel, Parkitects
Lynn Mason, Parkitects

Jacqui Berger, Amherst Town Board Liaison
Mary-Diana Pouli, Executive Director/Youth & Recreation Department
Eric Guzdek, Recreation Specialist/Youth & Recreation Department

Call to Order

- A. Mr. Gardner called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

Presentation/Public Comment

- A. Amherst Central Park Inclusive Playground
Presentation by Parkitects, Erik Riffel and Lynn Mason, on the design of the inclusive playground for Amherst Central Park. Once the design is shared across all related committees and boards, it then goes to the Amherst Central Park Working Group.

New Business

- A. Golf Course Architect Visit
Mr. Duquin discussed the visit of the architect for the Audubon Golf Course and his recommendations.

Liaison Report

Ms. Berger gave an update regarding Amherst Central Park and the Royal Park project, stating that there will be six new tennis courts and two pickleball courts at Royal Park. Ms. Berger said the sports field at Royal Park is being funded by a HECAP grant from NYS through Daemen College and the pickleball courts are being funded by a DASNY grant.

Youth & Recreation & Program Report

Ms. Pouli reported that Town ID cards went on sale on May 13th for \$10. Registration for summer courses begins on May 20th with the printed program guides available next week. Ms. Pouli stated that programming is scaled down this summer due to staffing issues; the Department is down by five full time staff with two additional laborer openings and the retiring of the main front desk clerk next week. Ms. Pouli also briefed the Commission on recent vandalism at North Forest and Bassett Parks as well as a break-in at the Northwest Amherst Community Center. She also gave additional information regarding the Royal Park project by stating that the existing playground will eventually be moved and expanded and a splash pad, picnic pavilion, and a walking trail will also be added to the park. Finally, Ms. Pouli talked about the 300 volunteers who came out on Chapel Service Day to help with community and resident improvement projects such as spreading wood chips and weeding at five Town of Amherst parks, the painting and landscaping of the Williamsville Youth & Family Center, the helping of seven low-income seniors and the hosting of a day of care for 40 refugee families.

Facilities Report

Mr. Guzdek stated that all facilities are now operating in full summer mode. He stated that he is also experiencing a staffing shortage with concern about having the ability to keep all the facilities open for the summer.

Chairperson's Report

No Report

Liaison Reports

- A. Daemen College, AYB, Football, Soccer** – No Report.
- B. Golf** – Mr. Duquin reported on the number of rounds completed since April (4900). He also mentioned the various projects (bridges/netting) that are on-going. Finally, Mr. Duquin mentioned that the Eagle Scout has completed her shelter project and that the summer golf camps have completely sold out.
- C. Skatepark, Parks & Playgrounds, Amherst Skating Club** - No Report.
- D. High School Baseball, Little League Baseball, Youth Softball, Adult Softball** – Mr. Gardner reported that sectionals have started.
- E. Ice Hockey** – No Report.
- F. Northwest Amherst Community Center, Town Recreation Facilities, Lacrosse** – No Report.
- G. Individuals with disabilities** – No Report.
- H. Racquet Sports** – No Report.

Correspondence

No Report.

Press Releases/News Articles

No Report.

Adjournment

Mrs. Kriner moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Duquin. Meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.