

Town of Amherst Recreation Commission

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 11, 2024
5:00pm via Zoom

Attendees:

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

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

Call to Order

- A. Mrs. Kriner called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.
- B. *Mrs. Hart made a motion to approve the minutes from May 2024, seconded by Mr. Day. Motion passed.*

Presentation/Public Comment

- A. Royal Park
Ms. Pouli gave a briefing on the progress of the Royal Park project, stating that all the contracts have been approved and there will be a pre-construction meeting this coming Monday. Ms. Pouli said that the project has support from a majority of the neighborhood residents. Construction will occur over the summer with the completion by the end of December, hopefully sooner.

New Business

- A. Gym/Facilities Rental Rates
Mr. Guzdek informed the Commission that the rates for the NARC and Clearfield facilities have not increased in ten years. Mr. Guzdek then discussed the proposal of eliminating the resident rate and going to a flat rate for those facilities. Mr. Guzdek will put together a plan to be presented at the July meeting.

Liaison Report – No Report

Youth & Recreation & Program Report

Ms. Pouli announced that the Amherst Youth & Recreation Department received an award from the Erie County School Board Association for the Northwest Amherst Community Center (NWACC). The NWACC is also a finalist for the Business First Brick by Brick Award for adaptive reuse of an existing building. Finally, the Youth Engaged in Service (YES) program received the Robert Uplinger Distinguished Service Award from the Amherst Lions Club.

Ms. Pouli then discussed the addition of Naomi Sosnowski to Department staff. Mrs. Sosnowski will be in charge of Aquatics for the Department as she has extensive experience with aquatic facilities and programming. Ms. Pouli also relayed that a full-time clerk has been hired to assist at the front desk within the Department office. Ms. Pouli did alert the Commission that the

Department is still in need of laborers and maintenance staff and due to the labor shortage, some programming and facilities may be affected.

Ms. Pouli gave an update on the Department's summer programming, stating that the summer program guide is now out. She said many courses are sold out, but plenty of other courses are available.

Finally, Ms. Pouli announced that the TOA Diversity Committee is planning to host a Juneteenth celebration at Bassett Park this Wednesday, June 12th. She also stated that the first Market at Bassett Park went well with around 1200 people who braved the mud.

Facilities Report

Mr. Guzdek stated that everything is status quo at this time for the summer. He also reported that the Northtown Center was awarded the NYSAHA state tournaments for March 2025.

Chairperson's Report

No Report.

Liaison Reports

- A. Daemen College, AYB, Football, Soccer** – No Report.
- B. Golf** – Mr. Duquin reported on the current revenue trend compared to 2023 as well as the continuing improvements to the courses.
- C. Skatepark, Parks & Playgrounds, Amherst Skating Club** - No Report.
- D. High School Baseball, Little League Baseball, Youth Softball, Adult Softball** – No Report.
- 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

Mr. Duquin moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Hart. Meeting adjourned at 5:22pm.