FINAL MINUTES

Monroe Joint Park Recreation Commission, May 18, 2020

The Monroe Joint Park Recreation Monthly Meeting was held via Phone Conference on the 18th day of May 2020.

PRESENT: John Battaglia Chairperson
Anthony Vaccaro Adm. Chairperson
Andrew Calvano Commissioner
Mary Elizabeth Burton Commissioner
Jonathan Novack Commissioner
Chris Sullivan Commissioner
Tony Schaffer Commissioner
Joe Mancuso Park Recreation Director
Priscilla C. Chang-Staley Park Secretary
Dominic Cordisco Alternate Attorney

ABSENT: Commissioner Kayel Conklin and Park Attorney Stephen Gaba

Chairperson John Battaglia called the meeting at 7:30 P.M, with the Pledge of Allegiance. Attorney Dominic Cordisco present on behalf of Stephen Gaba. Monroe Mayor Neil Dwyer was also present at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion made by Commissioner Burton and seconded by Adm. Chairperson Vaccaro

Resolved, to approve the minutes of April 27, 2020, with corrections.

Ayes: 7 Battaglia, Vaccaro, Calvano, Burton, Novack, Sullivan, Schaffer
Nays: 0

Privilege of the Floor – Public Concerns

No one was present on the call to speak from the public.

Repairs to Hockey Court (Discussion)

Mancuso referred to the Community Project Application that was previously submitted by the MW Roller Hockey League. The Commission needed to review the application as well as decide if an insurance rider is needed. After discussion, the Commission decided to ask for a rider on their insurance plan to cover the work their volunteers are doing on the project. They will also request a list of materials that will be used and a list of names of the volunteers. The Commission approved the league proceeding with their project. However, park maintenance may not have the time to assist with painting as the league requested. Alternate Attorney Cordisco advised a waiver for the volunteers is needed which should state that the work on the project is of their own will; the park is not responsible. Lastly, the weather may be a factor as to how long it takes for the materials to cure.
Park Recreation Director Report

Mancuso reported the following information to the Commission:

1. A copy of the Activity Director’s report.
3. A copy of a Notice of Meeting.
4. A copy of an email correspondence regarding the procedure to sign into the Zoom meeting.
5. A copy of the Hockey Project Application.
6. A copy of an email correspondence regarding the hockey rink.
7. A copy of correspondence to the leagues regarding the Park’s reopening procedure. Mancuso noted that the Park is waiting for guidance from the State; however the Commission has the authority to make the final decision. Maintenance has returned to work, for the past two weeks.
8. A copy of the Return to Work protocol. Protocol has been shared with maintenance.
9. A copy of the CDC recommendation for Camp.
10. A copy of a letter for the Camp applicants. The hiring process for camp is still moving forward including submitting the applications with the County.
11. A copy of the list of YAC Camp Applicants.
12. A copy of a proposed resolution to hire camp staff. A vote is needed to approve the salaries as well as to hire any additional staff, if needed, to maintain proper ratio of camper to counselors or to maintain any other Orange County Board of Health requirements.
13. A copy of the Park’s Calendar for June.
14. A copy of the Arbor Tree Giveaway event. The Arbor Tree Giveaway event is this weekend; it was originally planned for Arbor Day. Information was posted on the Park’s social media and was advertised in the Photo News. Participants will drive into the park and receive a seedling via “curbside pickup” where it will be placed in the trunk for contactless service.
15. A copy of league schedule modifications. Mancuso applauded the maintenance team efforts to prepare the fields during these past two weeks. It appeared that they were eager to return to work.
Park Manager’s/Maintenance Report
Topic was discussed during the Park Recreation Director’s report.

Old Business

Playground (Update)
Mancuso reported that he spoke with the concrete company (Immaculate Cement) with the lowest bid; work can start in June, which is a good time before YAC. The project should take approximately two days; dimensions are 4ft wide around the toddler system which will connect to the other play areas. Maintenance will remove the gravel and borders; mulch will be applied afterwards. The remaining pea gravel will be reused for a future purpose.

On a motion made by Sullivan and seconded by Commissioner Calvano

Resolved, to grant the bid to Immaculate Cement, from Walden NY, for the amount of $11,232 and to approve the expenditure for the sidewalk project. Attorney Gaba to review their documents prior to starting.

Ayes: 7  Battaglia, Vaccaro, Calvano, Burton, Novack, Sullivan, Schaffer  
Nays: 0

Please note that the agenda was suspended to discuss COVID19 and antibody testing sponsored by the Village of Monroe as well as the potential opening of YAC. Afterwards, the Commission returned to the agenda. Dwyer stated that testing is being offered to all members of the Commission. With regard to the camera project, it is on hold at this time.

Cameras
Topic was discussed during the Playground update.

League Scheduling (Modifications)
Topic was discussed during the Park Recreation Director’s report.

New Business

Summer Camp Discussion
Mancuso voiced concern regarding the situation concerning YAC. If the State allows for summer camps to proceed he’s unsure how to manage according to the CDC guidelines, which includes social distancing, sanitizing equipment and buses, etc. Will the Park be liable if a camper or staff member gets sick? What activities could the campers do while maintaining social distancing or is that even possible? The Commission agreed with his concerns. He also noted that June 15th would be his last date to be able to finishing planning YAC and work through CDC guidelines, if the State approves it. Cordisco advised that as long as the Park complies with the guidance, he’s not aware of any liability the Park would have to bear if a camper becomes infected. The Commission should be cautious and sensitive to the campers and staff at summer camp, with regard to this situation. Further discussion was had on the topic. A Commissioner commented that YMCA provides child care to essential workers on a very limited basis. Calvano asked what would happen if the Concession Stand renters decline returning to open the Snack
Bar. Battaglia stated if that situation were to occur, then the Commission will seek help from other businesses.

On a motion made by Commissioner Novack and seconded by Commissioner Schaffer

**Resolved, to approve to continue the hiring process for YAC, until further guidance is received from the State. Positions are not guaranteed.**

- **Ayes:** 7  
  Battaglia, Vaccaro, Calvano, Burton, Novack, Sullivan, Schaffer
- **Nays:** 0

**Tentative Camp Hire**
Topic was discussed during the Summer Camp Discussion.

**Seasonal Hire (Discussion)**
Mancuso stated that he would like to propose a candidate for the Seasonal Hire position. The Seasonal Hire could help with various maintenance tasks, including YAC. Three staff members could be kept occupied with tasks including projects. Further discussion was had on the topic. The Commission decided to proceed with Mancuso’s recommendation.

Please note the agenda was suspended to discuss the possible paving in the park. Afterwards the Commission returned to the agenda. Dwyer offered to assist with a crack sealer for the Park’s needs. Also the Village can assist with paving in the Park, as well, if the Park would supply the materials. Further discussion was had on that topic.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion made by Commissioner Burton and seconded by Commissioner Novack

*to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel at 8:40 pm*

- **Ayes:** 7  
  Battaglia, Vaccaro, Calvano, Burton, Novack, Sullivan, Schaffer
- **Nays:** 0

On a motion made by Commissioner Burton and seconded by Commissioner Novack

*to exit from Executive Session and return to open session at 9:01 pm*

- **Ayes:** 7  
  Battaglia, Vaccaro, Calvano, Burton, Novack, Sullivan, Schaffer
- **Nays:** 0

In executive session (telephonically), the Park Commission discussed personnel matters. Following the said discussion, the Commission approved the proposed candidate for hire.

On a motion made by Commissioner Calvano and seconded by Commissioner Schaffer
Resolved, to hire seasonal worker John Linderman, 410 Nelson Rd Monroe NY 10950 at a salary of $18/hr.

Ayes: 7  Battaglia, Vaccaro, Calvano, Burton, Novack, Sullivan, Schaffer
Nays: 0

Please note the agenda was suspended to readdress the reopening of the park discussion. Mancuso was interested in having the Watch Guards return to the park on an off peak schedule. They would distribute flyers that outline the social distancing guidelines to the public. He voiced concerns with the playground equipment; surfaces will probably not be disinfected as often as they should be. The Watch Guards would maintain their distance from the public. Novack added that the Watch Guards should return to assist with monitoring activities; they shouldn’t check for IDs. Further discussion was had on the topic. The Commission decided that the playgrounds should close. Mancuso will review the new protocols with the Watch Guards prior to them returning to work. He anticipates that work will start for them this week.

Authorization for Motion to Approve and Pay the Bills

On a motion made by Commissioner Novack and seconded by Adm. Chairperson Vaccaro

Resolved, to approve and to sign the bills. Editor’s Note; Monthly bills are distributed to the commissioners for their review before the meetings

Ayes: 7  Battaglia, Vaccaro, Calvano, Burton, Novack, Sullivan, Schaffer
Nays: 0

With no further business, on a motion from Sullivan seconded by Schaffer the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm. Carried unanimously.

Priscilla Chang-Staley
Park Secretary