

Final

Monroe Joint Park Recreation Commission, October 17, 2016

**A Special Workshop Meeting was held at Smith's Clove Park, 133 Spring St,
Monroe, New York on the 17th day of October 2016.**

PRESENT:	John Battaglia	Chairman
	Ann Marie Morris	Adm. Chairperson
	Laura Bollenbach	Commissioner
	Andrew Calvano	Commissioner
	Anthony Vaccaro	Commissioner
	Jonathan Novack	Commissioner
	Emily Whitman	Commissioner
	Joe Mancuso	Park Recreation Director
	Paul Truax	Park Manager

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael Niemann, Priscilla C. Chang- Staley, Attorney Gaba

Chairman John Battaglia called the meeting at 7:30 P.M, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Privilege of the Floor – Public Concerns

Having no public present, the Commission continued with the agenda.

2017 Budget Workshop

Chairman Battaglia started the workshop by reminding the Commission that the Park is scheduled to meet with the Town to discuss the proposed 2017 budget on October 26, 2016 from 7-8pm Studio 6 TMAC. He also reminded the members that the Park Board will be meeting with the Village in Executive Session at their October 18th meeting to discuss a possible litigation matter.

The Board then continued with the 2017 workshop. The Board did receive a draft budget at the September 26, monthly meeting to review for tonight's meeting. The revenue portion of the proposed September 26 draft will remain the same.

The Commission discussed the expenses and adjusted as follows;

Account ID	From \$	To \$
J000-7110-1220-00	50,000	52,000
J000-7110-1440-00	75,000	80,000
J000-7110-1460-00	8,000	34,580
J000-7110-2100-01	5,000	3,000
J000-7110-4250-00	8,000	5,000
J000-7110-4300-00	7,000	7,500

J000-7110-4440-01	350	400
J000-7110-4500-00	1,000	9,000
J000-7110-4520-00	7,500	10,000
J000-7110-4550-00	1,000	0
J000-9010-8000-00	42,000	47,413.80
J000-9030-8000-00	24,862.67	28,067.46
J000-9035-8000-00	5565.54	6,282.93
J000-9035-8001-00	1288.20	1,454.24
J000-9040-8000-00	11,000	12,417.90
J000-9045-8000-00	300	338.67
J000-9055-8000-00	1,500	1,693.35
J000-9060-8000-00	78,354	88,354.00
J000-9060-8002-00	6,300	7,112.07
J000-9089-8001-00	1,200	1,500.00

Mancuso will plug in the revised numbers and send copies to each Commissioner

The Commission moved onto the 5 Year Plan and Capital Improvement discussion.

The 5 Year plan which the Board is working with goes from 2015 to 2020. The first part of the discussion focused on those items which have been completed in part or whole. The projects completed in 2016 were: Field #4 Seating Upgrade, replacement of walkway around meeting hall and adding windows. The door jams, improved lighting, panic button and security cameras will be completed out of this year's budget.

Some of the other projects discussed:

1. Cover for stage (Mancuso stated that he has an impossible time getting people to perform due to the fact that our stage has no cover or acoustics to protect performer from rain, mist, wind, sun etc. Estimated at approximately \$20,000
2. A total re-vamping the playground system out past the park Office. Commissioner Novack suggested adopting a nature theme and work toward a larger play area which uses the contour of the land. Cost estimate \$400,000. The Commission discussed doing this in phases.
3. New bathrooms....The suggestion were, to concentrate on the set of public bathrooms attached to the Park Office. Currently they are small and outdated. To upgrade, we may need to consider abandoning the space (possibly use for storage) and replace a freestanding structure somewhere close to the building so as to be handicapped; a possible cost, close to \$100,000.
4. To explore the reclamation of the Hockey rink surface. Cost alone without factoring in drainage is approximately \$70,000.
5. To construct an irrigation system on field 4. This could be done in phases with the irrigation 1 year and the infields upgrade another year, at a projected cost of \$60-70,000 for irrigation.
6. Briefly discussed were; an outdoor playroom, to improve the electric and landscape the lower pavilion and upgrade the picnic area with new grills,

Hockey Rink Discussion

Chairman Battaglia and Commissioner Morris took the opportunity to bring the Commission up to speed as to the recent events following the News Channel 12 report and the closing of the Hockey rink. After playing a copy of the 2 news segments, Battaglia and Morris advised the Board that they met with the Hockey league Board on Saturday to discuss the situation. The Hockey board member insisted that the suggestion that the rink was unsafe came from a disgruntled adult league member who unilaterally contacted the news show. President Tony Romangino also stated that he was blindsided by the interview and misspoke. Both Romangino and board member individually and collectively insisted that it was never their belief that the rink was unsafe. Earlier this day, Hockey delivered to the Commission several statements from coaches, referees, the hockey board and the president of Hockey stating that the rink was safe. Park manager Truax also presented a letter to the Board stating that upon his inspection, he felt the rink was clear to be opened. In light of this development, Attorney Gaba submitted a draft resolution outlining the sound legal rationale to close the rink and steps needed to possibly reopen the facility. Chairman Battaglia distributed to the Board the draft resolution along with the satisfactory documents requested for the Commission to review and discuss.

On a motion by Commissioner Calvano, seconded by Commissioner Vaccaro

WHEREAS, Smith's Clove Park maintains a roller hockey rink; and

WHEREAS, on October 11, 2016 at approximately 1:15 p.m., without having given notice to the Joint Park Recreation Commission a News Center 12 film crew entered Smith's Clove Park and staged a news production near the hockey rink; and

WHEREAS, Monroe Hockey League President Tony Romangino, was also present in Smith's Clove Park on the said day and participated in the News Center 12 news production staged near the hockey rink; and

WHEREAS, Park Recreation Director, Joseph Mancuso, upon being made aware that the News Center 12 film crew had set up in the Park, approached the News Center 12 film crew and was advised that they were doing a "story" on the hockey rink; and

WHEREAS, shortly thereafter a reporter for News Center 12 came into Mancuso's office and asked to speak to a Park Commissioner and Mancuso, after advising the reporter that no members of the Joint Park Commission were present at the time, offered to answer any questions; and,

WHEREAS, on the evening of October 11, 2016, News Center 12 broadcast a segment on the hockey rink in Smith's Clove Park in which reporters and Monroe Hockey League President Tony Romangino alleged that the rink was unsafe for both children and adults and,

WHEREAS, the said statements of the reporters and League President Romangino in the news broadcast placed the Joint Park Commission upon notice of a claim that a dangerous or defective condition existed at the hockey rink; and

WHEREAS, upon learning of the notice of an alleged dangerous or defective condition at the hockey rink had been given to the Joint Park Commission, the Park Commission Chairman, John Battaglia, after consulting with Commissioners and Park Commission's Attorney, determined that immediate action had to be taken to protect users of the hockey rink from potential harm and to protect

the Park (and so the tax payers of the Town and Village of Monroe) from potential exposure to claims and/or liability arising from continued use of the hockey rink, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Village of Monroe Code Section 150-13(c), the Park Commission Chairman directed that the hockey rink be closed and secured pending investigation, consideration and further action by the Joint Park Commission upon the claim that an alleged dangerous or defective condition existed at the hockey rink; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Park Recreation Commission has now received letters from two adult referees, one youth referee and three coaches, all of which attest to the fact that they are currently actively involved with the program and offering their opinions that there is, in fact, no dangerous or defective condition at the hockey rink and that the hockey rink is safe for the sport and,

WHEREAS, the Park Commission has also received a letter from the Treasurer of the Monroe Roller Hockey League stating that the league officials never believed that the hockey rink was unsafe and,

WHEREAS, the Park Commission has further received a letter from Monroe Hockey League President, Tony Romangino, in which he recants and rescinds his prior statement regarding the condition of the hockey rink, and claims that the quote attributed to him was not accurate; and

WHEREAS, the Park's Supervisor for grounds and maintenance has inspected the rink and advised the Park Commission that the hockey rink surface is playable and in a reasonably safe condition;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS: Park Manager Truax is directed to re-open the Hockey rink effective first thing in the morning of October 18, 2016 and Director Mancuso is to notify the Hockey Board by way of Treasurer Alcide that the rink is now open.

7 Aye; Battaglia, Morris, Vaccaro, Bollenbach, Novack, Calvano, Whitman
0 Nays

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None Required

With no further business, on a motion from Commissioner Morris seconded by Commissioner Whitman the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 pm. Carried unanimously.

Joseph Mancuso
Recreation Director