

West Seneca Youth and Recreation Commission Meeting @ 6:00 pm
West Seneca Community Center, West Seneca, NY 14224
October 18, 2023
Minutes

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Tammy called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

II. Roll Call (via sign-in sheet)

Commission member	Present	Absent (A)/Excused (E)
Tammy Sugrue, Chairperson	X	
Carol Jarczyk	X	
Michael Smolen	X	
Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty		E
Kellie Kostek		E
Matt Bauer	X	
Lauren Masset, Recreation Supervisor - Ex Officio Commission Member		E
Robert Breidenstein, Town Councilman - Town Board Liaison		E
Brian Adams, Highway Superintendent, Ex Officio Commission Member		E
Meichle Latham, Recording Secretary	X	

- Also present: 7 members of the public, including 4 students (1 WSW + 3 OP)

III. Approval of September 20th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Carol motioned to approve; “2nd” by Matt; all in favor; none opposed

III. Continued Business

A. 2024 recreation programming recommendations to propose to Board

- ✓ Commission members’ top 3-5 suggestions informed by survey results- Commission members shared recommendations and arrived at consensus on top items to propose to the Board; Teens attending meeting today also offered input
 - i. Rec Department programming/events
 - 1. Much survey feedback reflected desire for more activities geared toward older youth/teens- Commission feels need to prioritize this
 - a. Discussed value in engaging older youth/teens themselves to advise Commission and Rec Dept; gain clarity of what activities (e.g. leagues?) would be of interest/meaningful to them to foster aligned programming and greater participation
 - i. Explore with Marisa and Bob of the possibility of leveraging school in a survey

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- b. RECOMMENDATION: Rec Dept to sponsor and lead a **dance** for 6-8th graders; Rec Commission to contribute to planning (free, timeframe, age range, location, include other teen-approved interesting activities, etc.) and lend assistance as available
 - i. Tammy motioned to propose to Board; Meichle “2nd”; all in favor; none opposed
 - 2. Prioritize swim lessons- Carol motioned; Matt “2nd”; all in favor; none opposed
 - 3. Other recommended activities/events based on responses asking for more structured rec programming for youth- both expanded days/hours & activities for youth out of school (school breaks/homeschooling), and for older youth/teens
 - a. Full day summer camp, field trips
 - b. Toddler room- agreed to table, but continue to monitor interest & consider for future
- ii. Facilities- Commission discussed survey responses
 - 1. Commission supportive of focus on enhancing existing facilities (including expanded hours)- pool (shade & seating for pool/splash pad; revisit pool fees), pickleball courts, etc.
 - 2. Volleyball courts- indoor and/or outdoor
 - 3. Consider outdoor skating rink
 - 4. Consider dog park
 - 5. Consider kayak launch point
- iii. Processes
 - 1. RECOMMENDATION: Increase ease and accessibility for participation in Recreation Department-sponsored events (e.g. on-line payments; diverse methods by which to enroll; more equitable opportunities (expand enrollment/programming for those high-demand programs so more people can participate), etc.)
 - i. Tammy motioned to propose to Board; Matt “2nd”; all in favor; none opposed
- ✓ Recommended Rec Commission-led activities/events
 - i. Movie Night- Matt motioned; Meichle “2nd”; all in favor; none opposed
 - ✓ Next steps: Carol will look into what it’ll take
 - ii. Trivia Night- Matt motioned; Tammy “2nd”; all in favor; none opposed
 - ✓ Next steps: Tammy will look into what it’ll take
 - iii. Christmas Light Contest- agreed to discuss at Nov meeting

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- ✓ Continuing to get survey responses
 - ✓ **Next steps: Tammy will explore options for organizing new responses (e.g. new spreadsheet)**

Meichle acknowledged the fact that community members invested time, thought and advocacy in the survey results, noting “The community deserves our deliberate attention in developing a community-voice developed plan/response.” Key themes:

1. More varied, inclusive family-friendly activities/programming (beyond rec programming) for all ages available to the community (essential to the well-being of all West Seneca community members). [e.g. Fallfest, Winterfest, Movie Nights, Game nights, Trivia nights, Summer hot dog roast when the pool opens]
2. Survey results also reflect largest percentage in request for more activities/events for seniors
3. Surveys also reflect suggested investment in utilizing, enhancing, and expanding existing town facilities/spaces at which to host various programming/activities.

Meichle inquired about any known past practice of various town and service entities convening to decide on and plan for community activities. Meichle suggested that results of survey be shared beyond Rec Commission with vision of engaging town and service entities in a strategically coordinated and collaborative approach to developing a plan of 2024 community activities that honors requests made by those who completed the survey.

Tammy motioned to present survey results/themes at an upcoming Board meeting; Matt “2nd”
✓ **Next steps: Tammy will consult with Bob about process to do so**

Baseball field(s)- WSYBA (baseball) group

- ✓ Rec Commission is unclear about what exactly is being asked of the Rec Commission in terms of “making a recommendation”
 - i. Carol made motion to table until November meeting; “2nd” by Matt; all in favor; none opposed
 - ✓ **Next steps: Tammy will seek clarity from Town**

B. Playgrounds Initiative (funding for 15 years via issuance of serial bonds)- *Phase II*

- Spring 2024 Playground Upgrades
 - Sunshine Park- all equipment’s been ordered
 - Fisher Park
 - Neighborhood resident votes= Option 2 with addition of belt swings
 - Propose above be approved- Michael motioned to approve; Matt “2nd”; all in favor; none opposed
- ✓ **Next steps: Tammy will inform Brian of above**

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- 2025 Playground Upgrades/Designs- Tammy offered understanding that these playgrounds are “behind schedule” and there may already be a plan in place for next playgrounds
 - Dorrance
 - Fireman’s Park
- ✓ **Next steps: Tammy will circle back with Town regarding 2025 Playground plan and tasks timeline to seek clarity about the level of involvement Rec Commission will play aligned with Rec Commission responsibility for fostering community engagement; How can we assist with soliciting community involvement in the design and/or Community Build of Dorrance and Fireman’s Park?**

VII. New Business

a. Volleyball court recommendation

- i. Tammy noted Commission to recommend parks at which volleyball courts (1 sand; 1 grass) would be placed
 - 1. Tammy motioned for a court at Veteran’s Park; Meichle “2nd”; all in favor; none opposed
 - 2. Meichle suggested that the 2nd volleyball court to be placed be done with consideration for equitable access for Town residents- for those who may have difficulty getting to Veteran’s Park, what park lends best feasibility? (geography, parking, bus line?, etc.)
- ✓ **Next steps: Commission members to review park locations and amenities (from Town’s website) and make recommendation to Tammy**

VIII. Commission Member Comments:

Michael requested that the Rec Commission aim to minimize manpower task load(s) by attempting to avoid duplication of efforts. One possible solution is the assignment of tasks to commission member leads.

IX. Public Comments (3 min. time limit/person): None

Meeting adjournment: Tammy motioned to adjourn at 7:47 pm; Matt “2nd”; all in favor; none opposed

Next meeting: November 15 at 6:00 pm (Regular Meeting)- Final meeting of the year

(CCL Large Room)- Tentative/proposed agenda

- ✓ Rec Director report
- ✓ Commission-led 2023 Activities/Events
 - Community Walk & Community-wide Christmas light contest
- ✓ Annual report
- ✓ 2024 Meeting dates and locations
- ✓ 2024 Chairperson and Recording Secretary nominations