

Chairperson Sugrue called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members Present - Tammy Sugrue, Chairperson  
Matt Bauer  
Carol Jarczyk  
Michael Smolen  
Lauren Masset, Recreation Supervisor

Absent - Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty  
Caron Morris  
Meichle Latham  
Robert Breidenstein, Councilmember  
Brian Adams, Highway Superintendent  
Judith Kindron, Director of Finance

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**MINUTES TO BE APPROVED**

Motion by Chairperson Sugrue, seconded by Mr. Bauer, to approve Meeting Minutes of the June 19, 2024, meeting.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

**OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Playgrounds - Chairperson Sugrue stated Highway Superintendent Adams provided the initial draft of Firemen’s Park and queried the commission members for comments. The commission was directed by Supervisor Dickson to seek feedback from property owners in the neighborhoods surrounding the smaller playgrounds as they did with Fisher Road Park. Chairperson Sugrue stated the Fisher Road Park community was given an opportunity to vote on two options and provide suggestions for the playgrounds. Mr. Smolen commented that some of the suggestions were implemented for the Fisher Road Park playground. Mr. Smolen stated the draft for Firemen’s Park playground is a good design. Chairperson Sugrue described the plans to be a firemen theme with a tall tower, ziplines, and swings.

Chairperson Sugrue requested that Mr. Smolen inspect the playgrounds at Westgate Park and Children’s Memorial Park. Mr. Smolen agreed. Chairperson Sugrue requested all commission members provide their playground inspection reports at the September meeting.

B. Commission Events

- a. Scavenger Hunt – Chairperson Sugrue stated two teams have signed up and she volunteered to contact participants from the 2023 event to participate. The event will be advertised in the West Seneca Bee and has been shared on Facebook. Mr. Bauer stated he will communicate with the West Seneca Police Department to promote the event. Recreation Supervisor Masset will contact the West Seneca School District. Chairperson Sugrue stated she will continue to prepare for the event and contact local businesses for donations as she is not certain the commission has a budget for expenses.

Recreation Supervisor Masset stated the Recreation Commission does not have a budget allocated this year but is authorized to use some funds with approval. Further, the 2025 park based budget recommendations that have been forwarded to Highway Superintendent Adams and are attached to Recreation Supervisor Masset's budget packet. Mr. Smolen suggested a petty cash fund for the commission. Recreation Supervisor Masset stated she just emailed the event participants from 2023 during the meeting.

- b. A Walk in the Park – Chairperson Sugrue relayed the following information on behalf of Ms. Morris: there is a need for volunteers for the free event on September 14th from 8 A.M. – 2 P.M. at Firemen's Park. Mr. Smolen and Mr. Bauer stated they will be present. A Facebook event will be posted and requested commission members share the post. The West Seneca Chamber of Commerce and local businesses have been contacted to support the Chamber. The commission will also request the event be promoted on the town sign. A volunteer is needed to contact food trucks, preferably with healthy food options, to attend the event.

Ms. Jarczyk questioned if the event would be suitable for special needs children. Chairperson Sugrue stated different wellness, fitness, and sporting organizations in town will have tables set up around the walking path and parents or guardians should use their discretion based on the child's situation.

- c. Field Days – Mr. Smolen provided the attached presentation.  
Possible event locations being considered:
- Town Hall Campus including the fields near the town pool
  - Little Loop field behind the Senior Center
  - School district properties, noting this requires coordination with the school district

Possible date for event:

- Avoid the Community Days weekend

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Courtney Fallon, Treehaven Road, made the following comments and questions:

- ✓ The pool capacity can be increased based on NYS guidelines and questioned why West Seneca's pool has a lower capacity compared to other local pools, hand out provided to the commission
- ✓ What can be done to improve the confidence level of lifeguards to allow for the capacity to be increased
- ✓ Concerned about the proposed skatepark at Firemen's Park on the existing basketball court
  - Provided handouts from the Skatepark Project and Skatepark.org
  - Why is the location of Firemen's Park proposed instead of Harlem Road Park and noted the latter is eligible for CDBG funding and would qualify for funding from the Skatepark Project
  - Will the basketball court be large enough for all elements of a skatepark and is it too close to houses
  - Refurbishing a tennis court is considered an interim solution for community skatepark needs
  - Will the project ultimately be wasteful
  - Will the skatepark be built by a qualified and experienced contractor

Chris Holmes, 92 East Carriage Park, referred to the Bike Pump Track at Harlem Road Park and requested an update to the resurfacing that the Highway Department was going to perform and noted many concerns have been raised over the material to be used for resurfacing. Mr. Holmes is requesting the Youth and Recreation

Commission follow up with Highway Superintendent Adams. Chairperson Sugrue stated she will investigate the status with Highway Superintendent Adams and ensure more thorough information is provided to the public.

**NEW BUSINESS**

A. Recreation Supervisor Masset's Report

Summer programs are going well, and additional events and activities have been released. Fall programs will be released shortly.

B. Skatepark

Chris Holmes stated a proposal for a permanent concrete skatepark in the town was presented in 2022 with Harlem Road Park as one potential location. In the time since the presentation was made, Mr. Holmes, with support from the Food Court Skatepark in the McKinley Mall, has developed the idea of building a DIY skatepark in the town. The purpose of the temporary skatepark is to build support and funding for a permanent skatepark. Mr. Holmes is requesting the town's permission to use the basketball court at Firemen's Park and stated the small skate features that will be built and installed could easily be demolished and removed to return the site to its original state. The skatepark would be temporary, built by volunteers, and the only cost to the town would be resurfacing the court. The goal will still be building a permanent skatepark in the town. Mr. Holmes is requesting the Youth and Recreation Commission recommend approval of this request to the Town Board. Mr. Smolen stated he is uncertain if the current budget can accommodate the cost of resurfacing the basketball court. Mr. Holmes stated Highway Superintendent Adams indicated the cost could be absorbed into the current resurfacing budget and if the resurfacing can be completed soon volunteers can begin to build the structures for use in the spring.

Mr. Smolen questioned if further input is needed from Highway Superintendent Adams or if the commission could move forward with recommending the project to the Town Board. Mr. Bauer questioned how much money Mr. Holmes is investing in the project. Mr. Holmes stated the parties involved estimate the cost to be between \$10K - \$20K. Chairperson Sugrue questioned what is required for insurance purposes. Mr. Holmes stated he believes this project would be like the bike pump track, which is covered by liability insurance, but the Town Attorney should be consulted for guidance. The volunteers that Mr. Holmes works with on mountain bike trails sign volunteer stewardship agreements with the parks they are working in and believes this process will be similar with the town with volunteers under the stewardship of Food Court Skatepark. Chairperson Sugrue stated she supports the idea of the temporary skatepark measuring community interest and support before a permanent structure is built.

Motion by Mr. Smolen, seconded by Chairperson Sugrue, to recommend the Town Board approve a DIY Skatepark at Firemen's Park.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Chairperson Sugrue stated she will email Mr. Holmes and Mr. Weldon Jones of Food Court Skatepark that the Youth and Recreation Commission recommended approval to the West Seneca Town Board.

C. Budget Recommendations

Chairperson Sugrue requested the Recreation Department hold a scavenger hunt event during the upcoming year and stated the commission is utilizing survey results to meet community interests including the Walk in the Park and Field Days. Further, there is still a need for events for teens and

families. Mr. Smolen questioned if the commission should wait until the success of the upcoming scavenger hunt can be measured. Chairperson Sugrue and Mr. Bauer agreed to delay a vote until after the event.

No other budget recommendations were proposed.

**D. Commission Shirts**

Chairperson Sugrue stated requests for shirts for commission members have been made and the commission members need to vote to request funds to buy shirts.

Motion by Chairperson Sugrue, seconded by Ms. Jarczyk, to request funds to purchase shirts for Youth and Recreation Commission members.

On the question, Ms. Jarczyk stated the shirts will allow commission members to be more noticeable at events. Mr. Bauer stated he is opposed due to the high turnover of commission members. Mr. Smolen suggested the shirts not have names on them and could be given back to the commission. The other commission members did not think that the shirts would be redistributed.

Ayes: Chairperson Sugrue      Noes: Mr. Bauer      Abstain: None      Motion Carried  
      Ms. Jarczyk  
      Mr. Smolen

Recreation Supervisor Masset stated she will determine the appropriate budget line for this purchase.


**COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS**

Ms. Jarczyk questioned what details of the playgrounds the commission members should investigate for the playground status reports. Chairperson Sugrue stated she will forward the list of suggestions she has to the commission members. Mr. Bauer stated in addition to noting the condition of existing equipment, he also considers what equipment or features can be added. The commission members agreed that park users need to be encouraged to clean up after themselves and their dogs and possibly promoting this message throughout the town.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Chairperson Sugrue, seconded by Mr. Smolen, to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 P.M.

Ayes: All                              Noes: None                              Abstain: None                              Motion Carried

  
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Margaret A. Martin  
Deputy Town Clerk/Secretary to the Youth and Recreation Commission

# WS Field Day Vision

7/31/2024

Michael Smolen, Commission Member

## To Plan and Implement...

A West Seneca **COMMUNITY** oriented day specifically to engage families and neighbors in a **VERY FRIENDLY, FUN FILLED** outdoor games and events environment.

## The Plan is to include the following:

- 1) Ideally, layout for play on "grassy" areas.
- 2) Emphasis on "grassy" area "family" picnicking.
- 3) Possibly be an extension of Community Days & the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- 4) PLAN GAMES FOR SPECIAL NEEDS RESIDENTS.
- 5) Venue to ideally consider both restrooms and parking.
- 6) Arrange for both volunteers and 3<sup>rd</sup> party participation.
- 7) Ideally eliminate or at least minimize any cost to town tax payers.

## A - Venue Grids:

- Serve as an aid in layout of Field Day games & events via the following:
  - 1) Display or depict allocation of game area.
  - 2) Orientation and placement of games.
  - 3) Application of items 1-2 to prospective locations.
  - 4) Evaluation of “grassy” areas both for games and picnicking.
  - 5) Evaluation of arrangements potentially needed in consideration of special needs folks.
  - 6) Evaluation of both parking & restroom accommodations.
  - 7) Please refer to the **Fireman’s Park Venue Grid** example.

(Fig-3\_WS Fireman's Park\_Scan2024-05-08\_102548\_v3)



## B – Games:

1. Perhaps a patriotic / country theme could be adopted?
  - a) Make use of hay/straw bails.
  - b) Patriotic sign contest or family red wagon decorating contest.
2. Consideration for separation of games according to age?
3. Implementation of “whole family” type games?
  - a) Maybe children serve parents a “mock” meal such as a flour pie lunch.
4. Games for physically challenged neighbors?
  - a) Compassion and ingenuity are perhaps most needed.
  - b) West Seneca, no doubt, possess much talent that can help here.

## C – Volunteers & 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Participants

1. Compile a list for out reach.
2. Moms, Dads, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Caregivers.
3. Game idea input.
4. Setup, organize, and run the games including “unofficial” referees.
5. Finally, break-down & clean-up keeping in mind “leave NO trace” with respect to garbage and waste.

**On behalf of the West Seneca Youth & Recreation Commission, I thank you very much for your attention and consideration.**

## Finally, for Contact and a Little Reminder:

- For "Field Day" Community Input, please email using the following:  
[us@Youth.Rec.Commission@twsny.org](mailto:us@Youth.Rec.Commission@twsny.org)

May I kindly request that the subject begin with "FIELD DAY - "

...and for that Little Reminder: Please join us for...

The inaugural

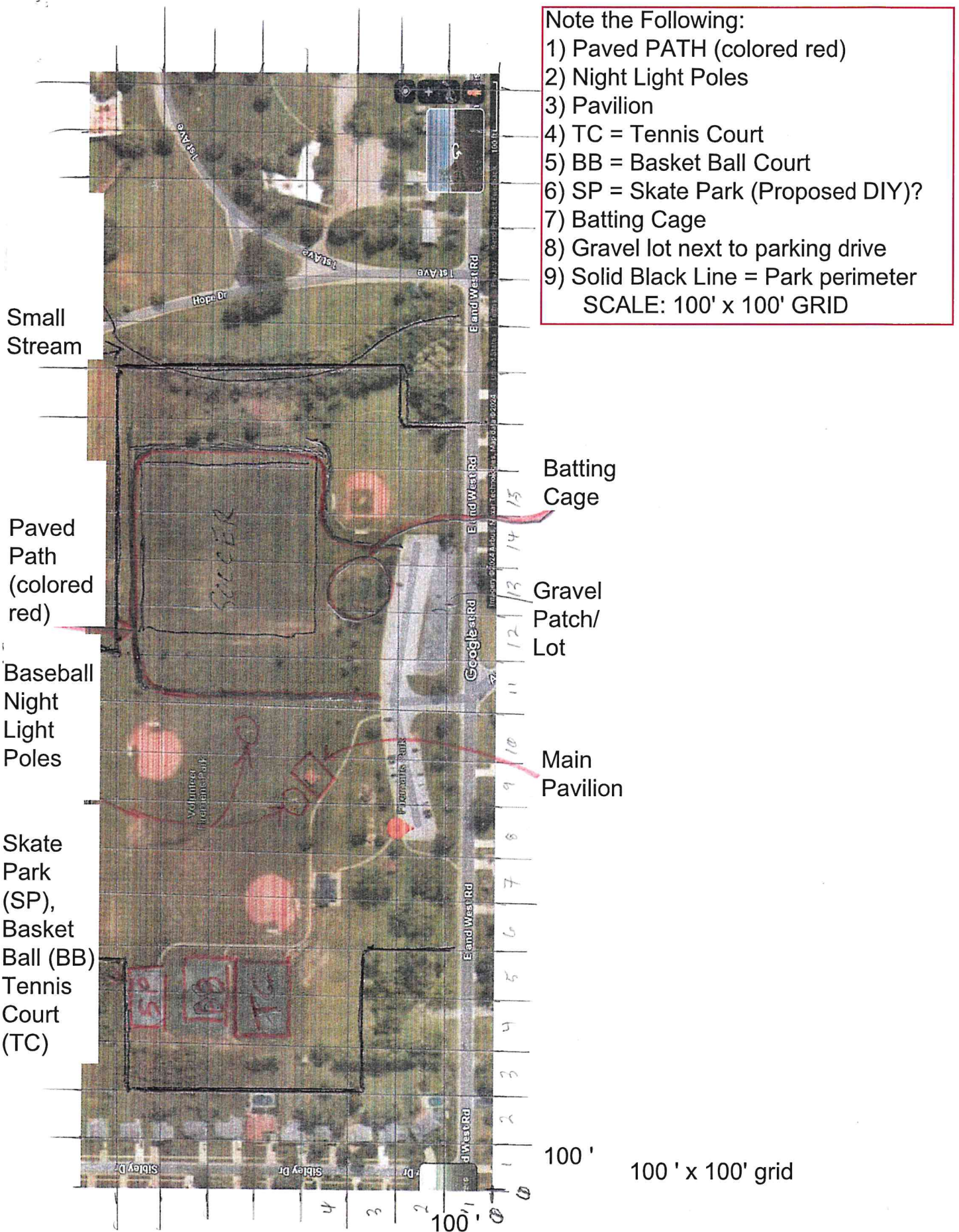
**"A Walk in the Park"**

Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Fireman's Park

Figure 3\_v3



- Note the Following:
- 1) Paved PATH (colored red)
  - 2) Night Light Poles
  - 3) Pavilion
  - 4) TC = Tennis Court
  - 5) BB = Basket Ball Court
  - 6) SP = Skate Park (Proposed DIY)?
  - 7) Batting Cage
  - 8) Gravel lot next to parking drive
  - 9) Solid Black Line = Park perimeter
- SCALE: 100' x 100' GRID

Small Stream

Paved Path (colored red)

Baseball Night Light Poles

Skate Park (SP), Basket Ball (BB) Tennis Court (TC)

Batting Cage

Gravel Patch/Lot

Main Pavilion

100' x 100' grid