

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

**ROLL CALL:**

- Members Present - Tammy Sugrue, Chairperson  
Matt Bauer  
Caron Morris  
Meichle Latham  
Carol Jarczyk  
Michael Smolen  
Brian Adams, Highway Superintendent  
Lauren Masset, Recreation Supervisor  
Robert Breidenstein, Councilmember
  
  - Absent - Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty  
Judith Kindron, Director of Finance
- 

**Selection of Chairperson**

Ms. Sugrue stated no members have indicated their willingness to become Chairperson of the Commission and would rather not remain the Chair. Councilmember Breidenstein stated upon advice from Town Attorney Trapp the commission does need a Chair to conduct business, and the appointment can be temporary.

Nomination by Mr. Bauer, seconded by Ms. Jarczyk, to nominate Ms. Sugrue to be the temporary Chairperson.

Ayes: All                                          Noes: None                                          Motion Carried

**Minutes Approval**

Motion by Chairperson Sugrue, seconded by Ms. Latham, to approve Meeting Minutes of the November 20, 2024, meeting.

Ayes: All                                          Noes: None                                          Motion Carried

**Playgrounds**

Highway Superintendent Adams stated the priority list for the playgrounds is dynamic and the equipment is evaluated in the summer and the spring. The current priority list is:

- ✓ Harlem Road Park
- ✓ A pocket park, such as Westgate or Carriage
- ✓ Children's Memorial Park

Current status:

- ✓ Equipment for Firemen's Park and Dorrance Park has been received
- ✓ Upcoming meeting with Parkitects to plan early spring builds – Chairperson Sugrue asked if they will be community builds. Mr. Adams anticipates his crew will complete the playground builds at these parks.

Chairperson Sugrue questioned if the budget for playgrounds is \$300,000 annually. Mr. Adams stated the amount is a baseline amount and the Town Board decides how to approve and release funds from the playground bond. Community Development Block Grant funding, for example received for Firemen's Park, frees up additional funds

for other playgrounds.

Ms. Morris stated in her opinion Carriage Park could use some aesthetic updates and does not require complete replacement. Mr. Adams agreed with this assessment. Ms. Morris questioned the cost for installing a walking path around Carriage Park. Highway Superintendent Adams stated there are many variables that contribute to the cost and whether a walking path would be worthwhile in this location noting drainage work would be his priority over a walking path. Ms. Latham commented that Carriage Park residents should be surveyed when the park is addressed

Chairperson Sugrue questioned if the commission should formally recommend the next playgrounds to be addressed. Mr. Adams and Councilmember Breidenstein both agreed the commission's list should include many parks in the event funds are available.

Mr. Smolen listed the items he observed at Westgate Park:

- ✓ General maintenance of the existing equipment
- ✓ Cracks in the basketball court
- ✓ Baseball field and fencing are in disrepair

Mr. Adams stated more funding is allocated to parks that have more use. The equipment at Westgate Park can no longer be repaired and this playground will be replaced.

Mr. Smolen referred to Children's Memorial Park and asked if some attention can be given to this park, including the emblem that was painted in the middle of the court. Mr. Adams stated items can be addressed when time allows. Mr. Smolen suggested encouraging the residents to participate with sprucing up the parks. Mr. Adams stated a plan would need to be in place before he would bring supplies. Ms. Sugrue stated she likes the idea of engaging residents in participating across the town. Mr. Adams reiterated the need to have a specific plan.

The Youth and Recreation Commission agreed that Harlem Road, Westgate, Carriage, and Children's Memorial Parks are the current priorities and asked if the commission should rank the following parks: Soccer, Switzer, Burchfield, Russert, and Dirkson. Mr. Adams stated in his opinion a better determination can be made in the spring noting that Dirkson has newer equipment but a swing set has been requested. Chairperson Sugrue stated she would leave Dirkson, Burchfield, and Russert Parks at the bottom of the list. Mr. Adams stated a portion of Russert is older and parts are still available for Burchfield.

Harlem Road  
Westgate  
Carriage  
Children's Memorial  
Soccer  
Switzer  
Russert, Burchfield, Dirkson

Chairperson Sugrue requested status on the request for volleyball courts. Mr. Adams stated the town is awaiting funding from Erie County for the volleyball court and shading at the pool.

### **Draft Annual Review**

Councilmember Breidenstein composed a draft document for the commission members to review and provide

any changes.

### **Recreation Commission Priorities 2025**

Ms. Latham stated the results from the Clark Patterson Lee survey should guide the commission's priorities.

Councilmember Breidenstein suggested a member of the commission participate with the Semiquincentennial celebration commission.

Chairperson Sugrue stated her goal is to transition ideas to the Recreation Department for execution specifically a community wide event, for example, bringing Taste of West Seneca back. Councilmember Breidenstein advised formalizing a recommendation to be forwarded to the Town Board for consideration. The Town Board can choose to allocate funds for events.

### **Pool Fee Structure for 2025**

Councilmember Breidenstein stated the Supervisor's Office has requested the commission's recommendations and reminded all of the 2024 schedules:

- ✓ No fee for residents, children under 5 years of age, and active military
- ✓ Non-residents were charged a nominal fee

Ms. Latham asked if the commission could recommend no charge for residents. Councilmember Breidenstein confirmed this and explained members of the Town Board are open to charging residents a fee.

Mr. Smolen asked if resident visits and repeat resident visits counts were available. Councilmember Breidenstein stated approximately 900 non-residents paid a fee to use the pool and 10,000 residents used the pool without a fee. The suggestion for a multi-pass speaks to repeat visits.

Ms. Martin stated that she used the pool with her children when ID cards were required, and a nominal entrance fee was charged to residents and felt that policy was acceptable.

Ms. Jarczyk asked if a multi-visit pass would cause any difficulties to the pool staff. Recreation Supervisor Masset stated the pass will be like a punch card. Mr. Bauer asked how much a 10 visit pass would cost.

Mr. Adams asked if any other towns offer free access to their pools and mentioned he knows East Aurora charges admittance fees. Ms. Fallon stated Cheektowaga requires an ID but no further admittance fee.

Mr. Bauer presented the attached fee schedule based on the fees charged in East Aurora noting the bottom schedule reflects the entire season. Chairperson Sugrue stated she prefers not to charge residents, but the season pass fee schedule is very reasonable. Councilmember Breidenstein stated the commission does not have to decide at this meeting. Mr. Adams requested that veterans and senior residents not be charged any fee. Councilmember Breidenstein stated the data suggests that the non-resident fee of \$10 did not discourage attendance during 2024.

Mr. Smolen expressed concern about offensive language used at the pool. Councilmember Breidenstein stated pool staff is trained and will request additional assistance from the Police Department when necessary.

The commission members agreed they would like to take the time to consider the proposed fee schedule.

### **Response to Public Comment**

Chairperson Sugrue stated she does not believe there were any outstanding questions. Ms. Fallon stated she inquired about day camp in an email sent the previous day to the Recreation Commission. Councilmember Breidenstein stated he found the following through publicly available information:

- Program registrations
  - 2018 – 740 registrations
  - 2024 – 1,240 registrations
- 2024 – 354 playground pop up visits
- 2024 – 3 community events
- Pool visits
  - 2018 – 3,859
  - 2024 – 10,839
- Recreation program budget
  - 2018 - \$223,023
  - 2024 - \$345, 860
- Recreation Department total budget
  - 2018 – \$274,000
  - 2024 - \$501,462

Chairperson Sugrue questioned when the last time full day camp was offered and would prefer not to use data from Covid years. Further, could a child be registered for the morning and afternoon half-day camps. Recreation Supervisor Masset stated the half day camps were for different age groups.

### **Public Comments**

Courtney Fallon, Treehaven Road, made the following comments:

- ✓ In her opinion, some resistant to day camp is confusion over the cost
  - Pre-Covid cost to run a day camp for 7 – 8 weeks for 90 children was under \$10,000
  - Adopted 2023 and 2024 budgets for summer programs are over \$20,000 and offer less program hours
  - Average weekly program hours: 2017 - 82 hours; 2024 – 43 hours
- ✓ Parks program is not on the schedule for summer 2025 and no program report for 2024 is available
- ✓ In her opinion, outsourcing programs are more expensive

There was discussion about Magic Camp and registration is capped at 40 participants for the 2 programs.

Recreation Supervisor Masset stated the park program is scheduled to return this summer and details are available on the Recreation Department website and summer catalog.

Katie Adrian, Barnsdale Avenue, made the following comments and questions:

- ✓ Appreciates the additional adult programs and suggested later start times would accommodate working adults
- ✓ Who should be contacted to address graffiti - Councilmember Breidenstein stated Highway Superintendent Adams
- ✓ Supports pool fees and stated she would purchase a pool pass even if she could not use it often

James Randolph, West Bihrwood Drive, made the following comments and questions:

- ✓ Should there be additional documents attached to the online agenda – Secretary Martin stated not all

documents are provided prior to the meeting.

- ✓ Suggested greater public engagement as a commission priority
- ✓ Amenable for pool fees for residents including seniors

**Director's Report**

Recreation Supervisor Masset noted the following:

- ✓ Winter registration is ongoing
- ✓ Summer catalog has been released
- ✓ Hiring for part-time summer roles

**Commission Member Comments**

Chairperson Sugrue stated the Christmas Tree Lights list was not too large but will attempt it again this year and promote it in different ways. Trivia Nights are tentatively scheduled for the following Fridays: February 12, March 21, and April 11th at 6:30 P.M. The Recreation Department will run the registration and arrange for a prize.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Chairperson Sugrue, seconded by Ms. Jarczyk, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 P.M.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

---

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

DAILY FEES	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
AGES 4 & under	Free	Free
AGES 5-18	\$3	\$4
AGES 19-59	\$4	\$5
AGES 60+	\$3	\$4

MEMBERSHIP FEES	RESIDENT	NON-RESIDENT
ONE PERSON (ages 5-59)	\$39	\$52
FAMILY OF 2	\$72 (\$36/person)	\$98 (\$49/person)
FAMILY OF 3	\$99 (\$33/person)	\$138 (\$46/person)
FAMILY OF 4	\$116 (\$29/person)	\$172 (\$43/person)
FAMILY OF 5+	\$130 (\$26/person)	\$200 (\$40/person)
SENIORS (60+)	\$29	\$41
SENIOR COUPLES	\$53 (\$26.50/person)	\$77 (\$38.50/person)