

Present: Commissioners Kristina Carr, Dave Hattenbrun, Lisa Jerkowski, Claudia Joseph, Frank Klepeis, Kieran Liggan-Casey; Recreation Clerk Dorene Whitaker.

Excused: Town Board Liason Ernest Klepeis.

Absent: Commissioner Reta Sorge

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **November meeting minutes:** F. Klepeis moved to approve the minutes from the November 2022 meeting. Seconded by L. Jerkowski. All in favor.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Outdoor Winter Soccer:** Jed Tucker of LaFinca Soccer Club presented an offer to erect the soccer apparatus that his group used here last year in the pavilion. Their official winter program is now being held in Highland but they have their old equipment - artificial turf and netting - available and are willing to assemble it for our towns' use. This could be done by early February. F. Klepeis moved that we accept this offer, with no liability for LaFinca, and with the stipulation that it be removed by LaFinca by April 3, 2023. Seconded by L. Jerkowski. All in favor.

2. **Proposed Tree Planting:** Adam Watson and Andrew Kniceley of Canopy Tree Service presented their proposal to plant a Norway Spruce tree on the Route 32 side of the Rec Center Property. They envision this ultimately growing to size to be decorated with holiday lights and a Town winter celebration held. Norway spruce is a fast-growing tree, with a mature width of 30 feet and a height of 100 feet. There appears to be adequate space for such a tree in the proposed site, which is near a large rock and tall grasses, with no interference with sight lines for traffic exiting the Rec Center; however, due to darkness the group was unable to inspect the site at the time of the meeting. This plan would require installation of electric service. The Commission was receptive to this idea but there are several issues to resolve. The commission members will look at the proposed site. Adam and Andrew will discuss the feasibility of electric service with a local electrician and return at a future meeting to discuss further.

3. **Ulster Corps MLK Day Event:** D. Whitaker reported that this annual event returned to indoors at the Rec Center on Saturday, January 14 and went well. The group has been charged the usual rate as the event is held on a weekend.

4. **Alzheimer's Association request for fee waiver:** The Alzheimer's Association is holding a public event at the Rec Center on Tuesday, April 18, which will be education and support for caregivers. They have requested a waiver of their fee. K. Carr moved that we grant the fee waiver. Seconded by K. Liggan-Casey. All in favor.

5. **Attendance limit at Rec Center:** The attendance limit at the Rec Center is legally 200 people, but was reduced during the Covid pandemic to 100. Supervisor Walsh has suggested we return to the pre-pandemic threshold. However, Dorene Whitaker, as the Town safety Officer, feels that events with 200 attendees are dangerously over-crowded. Tables take up a lot of

room, and hosts of parties often bring other equipment. F. Klepeis moved that we increase the limit to 150 and monitor. Seconded by D. Hattenbrun. All in favor.

**6. CPR/Narcan Training:** At our last meeting it was suggested that we provide CPR and Narcan Training. K. Carr reported that she has tentatively arranged such training with staff of the Ulster County Sheriff's Department. This would include lay person CPR, Narcan and AED training, would last 2 hours, and be free of charge and open to the public. She moved that the group approve the event. Second by F. Klepeis. All in favor. D. Whitaker will schedule a date.

**7. Roadside sign:** K. Carr reported that she has approached several sign companies for estimates on replacing the entrance sign to the Rec Center on Route 32. Supervisor Walsh has expressed willingness to look into the project, but other pending infrastructure - completion of the tennis courts, construction of a new playground, update of the ballfield lighting - will take priority this year. The Commission agrees with this. K. Carr will provide estimates when available.

**8. Community Series:** K. Carr provided draft of a flyer describing a three-part series she has organized beginning February 7: Introduction to Home Composting, Spring Energy Cleaning, and a Plant/Seed Swap. This is part of the Rec Commission's goal of providing more programming for the community.

**9. Farewell to Ernest Klepeis:** Our Town Board liason, Ernest Klepeis, is re-locating and has resigned from his position on the Town Board and consequently the Recreation Commission. The members of the Commission express appreciation for his work and wish him well.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm. The next meeting will be February 15, 2023 at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Carr, Chair