

## Village of Ballston Spa Park and Tree Board Meeting Minutes 7-21-2020

Meeting Location- Kelly Park

Meeting called to order 7:08pm

In attendance- Judy Esposito, Ed Hersch, Liz Kormos, Ray Otten, Mike Tower, Stacy Simmons, Kristopher Williams

Approval of minutes for 6-16-2020 meeting- Motion made by Ray, second by Ed, all approved

There was no Public Comment

Old Business-

There is still no news regarding the status of the grant. Kris shared that due to COVID19, many grants are "on hold indefinitely".

Ray shared that Pete Benfey is finally back in his office and was able to share recommendations for the sizes of pavilions to be used in Wiswall Park- one as the cover for the spring and the other for seating area. Social Distancing is being accounted for as we move forward with space use in the park. Liz mentioned that once there is a rough budget, she can bring it to the village board for approval.

Old Iron Spring- Ray shared great news that the Town of Milton has a stump grinder that they are willing to share with the village DPW to grind the stumps in Old Iron Spring Park and elsewhere in the future.

Liz shared that she reported the damaged fence and rotting stairs to the village. No news back yet. Stacy will find out from the BSBPA where the fence pieces were purchased to move along with repairing the two pieces that were discovered damaged during the park walk on 6/23.

Homework-

Kris brought first draft of the literature for public outreach and education. Thank you!!

We looked through it and all shared thoughts regarding edits. There will be more discussion next month when we all bring back our assigned paragraphs to edit. We will also need the village attorney and building inspector to review this before it goes public.

Discussion during the first review of this literature included:

Right-of-way is different for each street in the village as Liz has discovered while doing research.

Liz shared that there is zoning code for how street trees are to be trimmed/ maintained.

We need to develop a list of approved street and yard trees.

We should distribute the Street Tree literature in the Water Bill.

We need to develop future Community Presentations to continue public outreach and address questions.

COVID19 Park regulations have not changed.

We have a meeting scheduled with the village building inspector on August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm in Wiswall Park.

Kelly Park assessment-

Ray started by suggesting the chain link fence be removed and possibly used at the dog park? So the asphalt area can be used for Farmers Market? Mike suggested Basketball Court and to also reach out to the village homeowners to see what they would propose? Fear of possible misuse by older kids that frequent the park? The fence might also be used to reconfigure the parking?

Ray and Mike are working on the signs for Tick Awareness.

Mike had requested garbage cans further out in the park and is pleased to report how well they are working to keep the area clean!

Ray suggested more picnic tables further out in the park.

Mike informed us that there are people planting Memorial Trees without permission in the park. Discussion continued and there is language in the literature that addresses the planting of trees on public property and that it needs village approval. This discussion continued and will evolve into having Memorial Trees planted and given a memorial plaque as something special our village does!

Kris and Stacy will visit the Pleasant Street tree tonight/ tomorrow to assess and report back to Liz so she can get back to the homeowner with recommendations.

Note for next meeting- We need to plan an Arbor Day!

Next meeting will be August 18, 2020 at 7pm. Location TBA

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ray, second by Judy. Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Respectfully submitted by Stacy Simmons