



Village of Mamaroneck Budget Committee

Meeting Date: 17 May 2016

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Regatta Conference Room

Attendees:

Budget Committee Members:

Diane Hirschberg

Adam Honig

Stephanie Lividini

John Fall

Keith Waitt, Chair

Carlo Reca

John Campbell

Village Staff in Attendance:

Richard Slingerland

Sandy

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 with all committee members in attendance

Richard gave an update on the budget process:

- No changes to the budget were made
- Most recreation fees increased by 2%
- Docking fees increased for larger boats by 5% due to increased demand and a 3 to 4 year waiting list
- Sandy joined the meeting and discussed the management and philosophy of the recreation department
- Recreation committee manages the fields and the harbor fields many of which are man made fields
- 15 different areas or fields are managed by Recreation who issues permits for use
- Currently only local leagues are obtaining blanket permits for the 15 areas
- Recreation is working closely with the leagues to determine optimal use
- Recreation is trying to help other teams and leagues who do not have blanket permits use the fields
- Recreation will need a part time employee to help manage the fields on site and ensure that the fields are being used by permit holders
- This part time employee will also reduce vandalism to the fields and equipment during the weekends
- The blanket permits are given to the various sport leagues who in turn pass the permits to individual teams
- The leagues are OK with contributing or paying to fix or maintain the fields and to support a part time employee to monitor the field permits
- Other towns charge by the field and per hour, and by # of players which impacts the wear and tear on the fields
- Other residents and groups utilize the fields for a variety of events such as birthday parties, reunions, sports activities

- These groups are generally charged by the hour and by the field
- Residents pay \$50 per hour and non-residents pay \$75 per hour
- The beach deck is usually rented in 4 hour blocks scheduled with the tide
- Also the Rec dept is added new programming such as beach and sunset yoga and kayak rentals and training
- The kayak rentals are provided by Hudson Valley Kayaks and are \$30 per hours

Carlos Recca asked a number of questions regarding the maintenance of the fields

- Can the cost of maintaining the fields currently done by LandTek for \$20,000 be accomplished in house by the Village maintenance department
 - Sandy will determine full pricing on field costs but will need to factor in maintenance costs, administrative costs, office and overhead costs, personnel costs and equipment costs.
 - Next meeting will include Barry with Village maintenance
- ril 25, 2016 Budget Adoption, to comply with May 1st Annual deadline for Budget Adoption

- a)CR introduced the discussion field fees and the current discussions that are taking place at the Recreation Committee. Before the details of how or if fees should be demanded by the VOM, KW asked whether the Budget Committee could agree on our approach to this issue. Specifically :
- i.- events/programs should be covering their costs
 - ii.- usage based fees should be considered and are more palatable than a tax
 - iii.- any Harbor Island Ground Fees should be directly associated with improvements in the field conditions
 - iv.- subsidies should be given to those families that cannot afford it
 - v.-special commercial events (such as the BeerFest) need to be commercially priced

There was consensus on these 5 points.

b) CR proposed a methodology for pricing for field usage, with which the RC was in agreement and would like to propose to the BoT. This was to charge each sports program based on percentage usage during the season (e.g. 50% for soccer etc.). This would be a percentage of the overall costs of maintain the fields, and the percentage numbers for each sports programme are easy to obtain and fully transparent. The BC agreed this approach but the question was how to determine the overall cost. Was it the outside contractor fee? How much of the Parks Department costs should be allocated? Can we determine this?

SL raised the point that, in order to charge a fee, we have to demonstrate a value to the user, and so we need to demonstrate over time that the standard of the fields are improving. CR added that improvement would require portable irrigation (water wheel) that needs to be purchased, and so has to be factored in to the overall field maintenance costs.

The Budget Committee agreed that:

- Percentage usage was the right way to price the fees,
- An accurate determination of field maintenance costs needs to be determined by the Village Manager,
- The introduction of a usage fee needs to be phased over a 3 year period,
- This fee should be introduced, if possible, for the 2016 Fall season,
- The BC should advise the RC that we support their approach and are happy to work with them in any capacity to make sure field fees are introduced in 2016.

KW brought the meeting to a close at 8.45pm