



# Village of Mamaroneck Parks & Recreation



## Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 15, 2018

Attendees: Kathleen Gallaher                      Manny Enes                      Lou Santoro  
Randi Robinowitz                      Tina Maresca  
Veronica Colman                      Dan Margoshes

Absent                      Kerry Stein

Present: Mayor Tom Murphy  
Trustee Lucas, Liaison  
Jim Tamucci – Treasurer, Larchmont/Mamaroneck Little League  
Paul Sutter – President, Larchmont/Mamaroneck Little League  
Barry Casterella – General Foreman of Parks  
Sandy Korkatzis – Superintendent of Recreation  
Charles Vigliotti, Office Assistant

Meeting called to order by Randi Robinowitz at 7:42 P.M.

Previous month meeting minutes were not voted on or approved at this meeting.

**Little League Permit & Fields Discussion** – Representatives from Larchmont/Mamaroneck Little League were present at this month's meeting to discuss various issues. It is the precedent of the Larchmont/Mamaroneck Little League to have the kids play as much ball as possible on all of the fields they secure (regardless of cost). When a day is taken away from the schedule, it takes a large chunk out of their season. Goetz Field is a 50-70 baseball field, meaning the distance from the pitcher's mound to home plate is 50 feet. It is the only field in the area which has this distance to home plate. It is an important field due to the child's arm strength, age, etc.

### WATER ISSUES –

1. If there are water issues on any of the fields, then all games at Harbor Island Park are cancelled. This includes Goetz Field. Little League is opposed to this policy. If it is closed for soccer, then it is closed for all games according to Barry Casterella. According to Little League, some areas of the park are more susceptible to flooding than others.

2. Goetz Field is very unique – it possesses very good drainage qualities in the outfield section. Little League stated that if there is puddling in the outfield, then don't play, if not, then play should be permitted.
3. Gronberg & Lanza Fields – if fields are underwater, then we can play on the grass – this is what the Village of Mamaroneck agreed to in the past.

**Goetz Field Maintenance** – The Village of Mamaroneck will take over maintenance of Goetz Field for the foreseeable future is an issue for the Little League organization. Little League has a group that goes down to Goetz Field to maintain it, costing \$7,500–10,000/yr. Their argument is that if they (LL) are unable to maintain the field, then they will lose games. They state that when there is a rain event, they are capable of fixing the field to allow the game to be played when other groups cannot. Their motivation is to get every game played that is possible. They want to have the ability to do everything that they can to get the games played. In their impression, they believe that they do a great job at this. If they are unable to maintain the fields they will lose playing time – and games. Regarding the rain issue, wants to understand if the Parks department can actually fix the fields in a timely fashion. According to Village records, there was a grievance filed in 2015 against the people who were fixing the field, stating that it is against the law for some other group to be maintaining a Village field.

**Permit Discussion** – There is a competing permit where Little League cannot use the field on Sundays from 12:30-4:30 p.m. (a 20-hour block of time in total). This becomes a big problem for Little League as they manage 23 teams and approximately 275 kids. If they are going to lose time, it will cause a problem to schedule games. They will need to work out an equitable schedule with the other leagues in order to accommodate everyone's needs. Little League would prefer to be the permit holder and to allocate the field use to the other leagues. Barry Casterella stated that the Little League cannot take over the responsibility of the fields. There was no prejudice taken against the Little League organization, it was simply that they did not provide the necessary paperwork when requested numerous times. Another organization was able to do so, and thus granted the permit they had applied for. Little League would like to sit down with the other party to discuss an equitable division of start and stop times for games to be played so that all groups are able to play and complete the games in their schedules. There will need to be an adjustment of game start and stop times to accomplish this. Manny Enes suggested that Sandy Korkatzis, Jim Tamucci and the other leagues should sit down and work out the schedule for the 20-hour block. It was suggested by Sandy that Recreation should have its own "Arena meeting" to figure out who needs which field and how often. It was suggested that this meeting take place in early December. A possible solution to alleviate the field requirements would be the creation of a new ballfield to be located by the sewer treatment plant – estimated installation cost, \$75,000. Sandy Korkatzis will draft a letter for "*Fields for Kids*" to inquire about their possible involvement in this potential project.

**Other Parks/Other Issues Discussion** – There needs to be an understanding as to how to handle the closing of the fields while allowing Goetz to remain open for ball play. Sometimes, baseball is open, depending on the drainage, tide schedule, etc. A suggestion would be to have the fields closed from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. on weekends (when necessary) to ensure proper drainage has commenced. The Park Rangers do not do a sufficient job in monitoring the fields to disallow pick-up games outside of league permitted play. If there are four or more people participating in a game, then a permit is required to be on the field. Fields are required to be lined three days per week. The Parks department will line the fields on the weekends when notified in advance. Barry Casterella wants to work the issues out with Little League. He will speak with the Parks & Recreation Commission and to his boss to understand how best to proceed about the field closure issues related to Goetz Field.

**Gunderboom Discussion** – This is the large barrier which surrounds the swim area. It is designed to prevent bacteria and garbage from infiltrating the swim section of the beach. The current state of it is poor and should be

replaced in the near future. The current design has dangerous anchors semi-buried into the sand to secure the gunderboom in place. People can get hurt on the gunderboom and the anchors in its current state. At present, we do not know if the gunderboom is actually performing as it was intended to. There needs to begin discussions about its replacement and is certainly worth exploring.

**Other Topics** – Softball season presently has 23 teams registered. Volleyball season registration has not yet commenced. This is a season comprised of approximately 30 teams in total and typically runs itself through Westchester Volleyball.

Meeting called to a close by Lou Santoro at 9:15 P.M.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 19, 2018.

*Minutes taken by Charles Vigliotti*