

Town of Newburgh
Parks Board
Minutes June 1, 2017

Members Present:

Mary Ann Wilsbacher, Wanda Kavanaugh, Kevin Reine & Ron Keller

Administrative Present:

Attorney Raymond Dudlo, Legal; Christy Powell, Town Manager; Andrea Balboni, Administrative Assistant

Members & Administrative Absent:

Stacie Krieger, Council Liaison

Advisory Board Members Present:

None

Citizens Present:

Amber Kelly – Historic Newburgh, Inc.
John Perkins – Historic Newburgh, Inc.
Steve Adams – 819 Treelane Drive
Molly Adams – 819 Treelane Drive
Nannette Angel – 713 Carole Place
Jim Case -

Minutes:

Kevin Reine made a motion to accept the May 4, 2017 minutes.
Ron Keller seconded, no discussion and the minutes were approved.

Andrea Balboni apologized that the May 25th special meeting for swim team minutes were not complete. They will be up for approval at the June 1st meeting.

Petitions and Comments from Citizens Present:

None

New Business:

HNI Pool Banner Request

Amber Kelly from Historic Newburgh is requesting permission to hang a banner at Lou Dennis Park to advertise Movie Night in the Park. Mrs. Kelly is looking to hang the banner about a week out from the actual event. Mrs. Kelly is also looking to advertise their free swim nights, June 24 & July 22, at the entrance of the pool.

A discussion was had on where HNI would hang the Movie Night in the Park banner. It was decided the best place for the banner would be at the entrance of Lou Dennis Park and Mrs. Kelly agreed that one week before the event was enough time to advertise.

Andrea Balboni told Mrs. Kelly that at the front entrance of the pool is an A-Frame sign. On one side of the sign is the pool rules and the other is blank. Mrs. Balboni explained that to promote her Family Fun Nights she has been putting the information on a piece of poster board and attaching it to the A-Frame sign. Everyone leaving the pool will see the advertisement.

Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Balboni spoke about making the Newburgh Community Pool page a co-host to the HNI free swim and movie night events on Facebook.

Mary Ann Wilsbacher made a motion for HNI to put a banner up at the entrance of Lou Dennis Park and advertise the free swim at the entrance of the pool about a week from the event.

Wanda Kavanaugh seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion was approved.

Swim Team

Mary Ann Wilsbacher stated that all present received the swim team calendar that includes practices and meets as well as the cost sheet. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that she has spoken with everyone on Parks Board and this calendar is what can be done to have a 2017 swim team. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that they are also offering to give a reduction in price of 20%-21%. Mrs. Wilsbacher gave the examples that if you had twenty (20) participants sign up for swim team, the 20%-21% reduction would put the cost at seventy five dollars (\$75.00). Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that she does know that there has been some sponsorship money so they could apply that to each participant in hopes of getting the price close to fifty dollars (\$50.00). If thirty (30) participants are to sign up, the reduction would bring the price down to fifty dollars (\$50.00). Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that the reduction will not bring the fee lower than fifty dollars (\$50.00). Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that by offering the reduced price they feel they will be able to provide for the swim team as well as being good stewards of the tax money.

Mrs. Wilsbacher asked the citizens present if the calendar and the cost were agreeable to them and opened up the discussion for public comment.

Molly Adams, 819 Treelane Drive, stated that it was not agreeable to her. Mrs. Adams stated that meeting once a week on a Saturday does not provide consistency and in order for them to practice their sport they need to meet more than once a week.

Steve Adams, 819 Treelane Drive, stated that they are not thrilled with the schedule but they are just waiting on the Parks Board to make the decision on if there is even a swim team this season. Mr. Adams then asked that in the two week period of practice do the meets have to fall within those dates. Andrea Balboni stated that they do need to fall within that window of time and that the Splash and Dash, Brittlebank at home, Brittlebank away and the YMCA can make those dates work within those two weeks.

Mr. Adams stated that they did start a Booster account at People's Bank for the swim team and they will see what they can do to help out. Mrs. Powell stated that any money raised by the Boosters can be used to help with the cost of swim team, suits and/or t-shirts.

Mrs. Wilsbacher stated there are two other stipulations on joining swim team.

1. The child participating in swim team must be able to swim the length of the pool on their stomach and on their back. Children that cannot swim the length of the pool will not be able to join but are welcome to sign up for advanced swim lessons.
2. The team will need to look like a team with at least matching color suits.

Mr. Adams stated that with the schedule that is presented, the pricing and the two requirements to join swim team; he believes there will only be about ten (10) kids that sign up.

Raymond Dudlo asked Mr. Adams what exactly is the issue that he thinks would stop people from signing up. Mr. Adams stated that the Saturday morning practices compete against other sports that the kids might be in. Mr. Adams stated the best schedule is four (4) practices in a row week after week; ideally with the six (6) week schedule like last season. Mr. Adams also stated that removing the "littles" from the swim team because they cannot swim the length of the pool, takes away from their first experience of swimming for a swim team and turns it competitive.

Mr. Dudlo asked Mr. Adams with this schedule and these prices would he sign his two children up for the team. Mr. Adams stated that he would have to talk about it with his wife.

Nannette Angel, 713 Carole Place, stated that her child has been on the swim team for seven (7) years. Mrs. Angel stated that when her child joined the swim team, she did not know a single stroke and the lifeguards worked with her every night all season long and now she is a wonder swimmer. Mrs. Angel stated they are unable to do Newburgh Sea Creatures because of other interests her child has, the cost and the volunteer time they require. Mrs. Angel feels we are taking away something that kids love to do. Christy Powell stated that they are trying to bring it back and Mrs. Angel stated that the schedule provided is not enough practice time. Mrs. Powell suggested also signing up for the higher advance swim lesson.

Mary Ann Wilsbacher addressed the issue of the seven (7) week swim team season and the two (2) week swim lessons. Mary Ann Wilsbacher stated that some people were using the seven (7) week swim team as swim lessons when that is unfair to the people who put their children in the two (2) week swim lessons for the same cost as the swim team. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that children should be in swim lessons until they are able to be on the swim team.

Raymond Dudlo asked Mrs. Angel if they would be interested in signing her child up for this season. Mrs. Angel stated that her child is on a travel team for another sport, so until she can see her schedule, she does not know if she would be able to commit. Mr. Dudlo asked that if there were more practices would she be able to commit and she said that they would be able to. Mrs. Angel stated that the reason why the swim team has worked in the past was with the seven (7) weeks of swim practices, if you missed a few it was okay. The problem with have a smaller amount of practices is, if you miss a few, you have missed almost half. Mrs. Angel stated that the swim team has always had a laid back atmosphere and practices were not mandatory.

Andrea Balboni wanted to remind everyone that when the pool season started, we had put the swim team on hold. By putting the swim team on hold, we hired fewer lifeguards and have set a pretty tight schedule when it comes to swim lessons, pool parties and Family Nights. The schedule that was created takes into consideration the number of guards we have, how many hours they can work and the already existing events that have been planned. Mrs. Balboni stated they all know that it is not an ideal schedule but it works with everything else we already have planned for the season.

Mrs. Angel also wanted to make a comment about the matching swimsuit requirement. Mrs. Angel stated that when her child first started there was an order form where they could purchase a suit but it was option, the only requirement was one pieces for girls. Mrs. Angel also stated that there was an option for a t-shirt that year as well. Mrs. Angel stated that requiring matching swimsuits is a little much to ask the parents to do. Christy Powell stated that the idea is not so much for each kid to wear the exact swim suit but a decision would be made where everyone has to wear a blue suit or a black suit. Mrs. Angel stated that with the season and the summer already starting most parents do not want to go out and buy another suit. Mrs. Powell stated that with the booster money, maybe we just do matching t-shirts this year. Maybe this year, there is a compromise on the suits but going forward it would be a requirement.

Raymond Dudlo wanted to clarify with Andrea Balboni that the swim team time slots on the proposed schedule were added into any available time that the pool had. Mrs. Balboni explained that last year there were days were we had swim lessons, swim team and pool parties and on those days something always suffered. Mrs. Balboni stated that last year they had to refund swim lessons and one pool party due to a swim team conflict. This season since the swim lessons were scaled back and we had a few open weeks with nothing scheduled, Mrs. Balboni added swim team to those open weeks along with the two (2) hours on Saturdays. Mrs. Balboni also explained that she also had to be careful of extending the weekdays too much due to the lifeguard schedules. Mrs. Balboni explained that we are going to work swim team with the lifeguards we have now, but since we hired less, that means longer days for those guards. Mr. Dudlo stated that he wanted to make the

public aware that this schedule is due to the limitations that already exist, the events that are already planned and the number of lifeguards that have been hired.

Mrs. Angel asked why less lifeguards were hired. Mrs. Balboni stated that less lifeguards were hired because we were not doing swim team this year and because the biggest complaints from lifeguards last year was that they did not get enough hours. Mary Ann Wilsbacher also stated that by hiring less guards also helped with reining in the salary cost to help with the overall loss that the pool sustains each year.

Mrs. Angel questioned why the pool continues to lose money each year. Mrs. Balboni stated when they received the pool report in October of 2016 and saw the loss the pool took, she then pulled pool reports going ten (10) years back. She looked at the expenditures, admissions, family passes, swim team participation, swim lesson participation and realized across the board that for the most part the expenditures stayed the same but everything else was doing down. Admissions are way down, family passes, swim team, swim lesson; everything is down. So Mrs. Balboni took this information to the Parks Board and they started working on what they could do to increase admissions. They looked at every aspect of the pool and decided to first start applying for grants to spruce the place up. Mrs. Balboni stated that Lowe's updated the bathhouses; the Woman's Club gave us a grant for umbrellas, there were some grants we lost out on, but we worked with what we were given to spruce the place up. Mrs. Balboni stated they looked at the admission rate and decided to go to one (1) single rate instead of three (3), in-town and out of town rates were dropped, punch passes were introduced, lesson sessions and times got cut, hours were extended, a Facebook page was created and Family Fun Nights were introduced. Mrs. Balboni stated that every part of the pool was touched this year with the goal of getting more people into that pool. Mrs. Balboni stated that she was going to wait until the pool report section but so far, the work that Parks Board has put in, is working. In 2015 the admission revenue (just what was paid at the gate nothing else) on opening day was one hundred and ninety one dollars (\$191), in 2016 it was one hundred and twenty five dollars (\$125), and for 2017 it was three hundred and three dollars (\$303). Mrs. Balboni stated that those numbers just prove that the lower rates work and that all the publicity is working.

Mrs. Balboni went on to explain that putting swim team on hold was all part of this plan to get the pool back on track. Mrs. Balboni stated that other teams talked to her about how our meets were disorganized and some of the lifeguards even talked to Mrs. Balboni about how poorly they were run. So with the decline in numbers, the disorganization and bringing in Alyssa Hammel who has experience with swim team, we made the decision to postpone the swim team for 2017 with the intention of using the summer and the fall to reevaluate and see what we could do in 2018 to make the team run smoother.

Mrs. Balboni stated that their goal this year is to get more people into the pool, to make people start caring about the pool again; because in 2018 they are thinking of doing a fundraiser to bring back a diving board, and if people come to the pool and care about the pool again, they will volunteer, they will donate, they will help get that diving board up. Everything that the Parks Board has done for the 2017 season has been done with the future in mind.

Mary Ann Wilsbacher wanted to address the citizens in the audience about the posts that were put on Facebook. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that she has been personally offended by those posts. Mrs. Wilsbacher went on to state that in a public forum they complained about the Town of Newburgh and the Parks Board for not providing enough entertainment for children. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that she believes they are only focusing on what their children like to do and not on what the Town and the Parks Board has available for all children. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that just within the Lou Dennis Park they have the Fortress of Fun, tennis courts, tennis lessons are offered at a low rate, basketball court, a pool, soccer field, baseball field, and new table tennis tables on their way, HNI movie nights, puppet shows, picnics and Family Fun Nights. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that there are other communities that offer more but you have to take into consideration their locations and the tax dollars they spend to have those services. Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that the Parks Board is on a budget and they try to be good stewards of the tax money they are allocated to spend.

Mary Ann Wilsbacher made a motion to create the 2017 swim team season with the five (5) Saturdays and the eight (8) weekdays as indicated on the schedule. The rate will be discounted twenty percent (20%) but will not go lower than fifty dollars (\$50.00) and all management of the swim team will be done by the Pool Manager. Wanda Kavanaugh seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion approved.

Mrs. Wilsbacher stated that the schedule and the rate will be readdressed next year. Mrs. Wilsbacher also stated they will start to promote swim team as early as January and February of next year to try to get more participants signed up.

Jim Case spoke at length about his previous involvement with the Parks Board and the creation of the swim team at the Newburgh Community Pool.

Family Fun Nights

Andrea Balboni handed out the flyer to the Parks Board with all the Family Fun Nights listed. Mrs. Balboni stated that the first one will be tomorrow, Friday, June 2nd and will be "Water Safety Night". Mrs. Balboni stated they are going to offer mini lessons, show how the guards would save someone in the water, have some crafts and activities that focus on water safety and give the parents and kiddos some handouts about water safety.

June 9th is Advanced Disposal night and the only Family Fun Night that will be free admission due to their donation.

Mrs. Balboni asked the Parks Board what food banks they would like to donate to on the "Pack the Pantries" night. Mary Ann Wilsbacher stated that the Newburgh Food Pantry and Wanda Kavanaugh's church has a food pantry as well.

Mrs. Balboni stated that the only night that has nothing planned is the last Family Night of the season.

The Family Fun Night flyer is available at the pool, at Town Hall, on the Newburgh Community Pool Facebook page and Mrs. Balboni has created individual events for each Family Fun Night, and has also submitted the events to Macaroni Kids website.

July = Parks and Recreation Month

Andrea Balboni stated that July is Parks and Recreation Month and just wanted to remind everyone on Parks Board and if they have any ideas, to please let her know.

REPORTS:

Town Council Liaison:

None.

Pool Report:

Andrea Balboni stated that opening day admissions was three hundred and three dollars (\$303.00), Sunday was not great but it was very gloomy, rainy and cold and on Memorial Day they did five hundred and four dollars (\$504.00) which is 168 people that paid at the gate.

Alyssa Hammel and Gerald Bowser have both told Mrs. Balboni that everyone keeps giving them compliments on the pool, the shower rooms and the umbrellas. Mr. Bowser told Mrs. Balboni that the concession stand has been very busy.

So far they have sold (three) 3 five-punch passes and donated four (4), five (5) ten-punch passes, three (3) twenty-punch passes and four (4) thirty-punch passes and donated one (1) thirty-punch pass. Twenty four (24)

family passes have been sold and two (2) of those passes added additional members on, and Twenty five (25) kids have signed up for swim lessons

Dr. Ed Kasha donated two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250.00) for a sunscreen donation. Mrs. Balboni has ordered the sunscreen and it should be in next week along with a wall mounted bracket. Mrs. Balboni will have a sign up thanking Dr. Ed Kasha all season long. Mary Ann Wilsbacher wrote out a thank you note and would like everyone to sign it.

The Parks Board received a thank you letter from Newburgh Elementary for the thirty-punch pass for their Spring Carnival.

Mrs. Balboni stated that the 45th anniversary party is on June 18th and they will have 70's music playing, a disco backdrop, 1972 entry fees, dress up contest, prizes, photos from opening day of the pool and photos and facts about 1972 in general.

Randy Wheeler fixed the stereo at the pool.

Today there was a little pool pump issue but it has been fixed.

We now have plenty of mulch. Castle Seniors spread the mulch one day, a few guards did it another day and there are still a few areas that need help but there are guards looking for some additional hours and are willing to spread mulch.

Fundraising Committee:

Andrea Balboni stated that there has been two (2) Park Pals signups. Heritage Federal donated to the Conserver level and Allen Gomoll, Ph.D. donated into the Steward level. Mrs. Balboni has sent them each a punch pass to the pool along with a letter stating what other benefits they will receive. Mrs. Balboni has also started a spreadsheet to keep track of the donations.

Mary Ann Wilsbacher thought about going up and down Jennings Street looking for corporate sponsors. Mrs. Balboni stated that she is going to try to put out a quarterly newsletter and she would be willing to put their logo on the newsletter.

Raymond Dudlo asked if these donations are just money or also volunteering their time. Mrs. Balboni stated that when she explained it, she explained that their information would remain on file and if there was a day or an event we were looking for volunteers she could reach out to the Park Pals.

Mrs. Balboni stated that the Clerk-Treasurers Office has created a Park Pals account so if we need money from there; she just has to let them know.

Rivertown Trail:

No Report.

Rivertown Trail 5K:

Has not had a meeting since the race.

PARK AREA REPORTS

Lou Dennis:

Ron Keller stated he walked around the pool deck and everything looks amazing. Mr. Keller stated that Gerald Bowser has been working so hard on that pool. Andrea Balboni stated that the little pool is not open yet, that it is still leaking but Mr. Bowser is working on it.

Old Lock and Dam Park and Dock:

Kevin Reine stated that the dock area is still under water but the water is going down. The weather forecast looks good so hopefully they can get down there and get the dirt out and get the docks in but Mr. Reine still thinks we are two-four weeks from putting the dock in.

Wanda Kavanaugh suggested putting the second ping pong table at the Old Lock and Dam.

Lockmaster Cottages:

Kevin Reine stated that they look pretty good. A little painting is needed and there is a gutter on east side of the West House that has been smashed. Andrea Balboni will let Gerald Bowser know.

Andrea Balboni wanted to let the Parks Board know that the Old Lock and Dam building and the Lockmaster Cottages are booked every weekend. Raymond Dudlo was pleased to hear that stating that there does not seem to be any push back from the rate increase. Mrs. Balboni stated she does not know if it was the information in the newsletter, the HNI TV spot or what, but she has multiple showings almost every day and they are booking up like crazy.

Indian Hill Overlook:

Wanda Kavanaugh stated that the bathrooms are working and everything looks really good.

Master Plan:

Andrea Balboni stated that she will put her focus on the Master Plan once the pool needs slow down.

Unfinished Business:

Mary Ann Wilsbacher stated that Randy Wheeler is here tonight and due to his schedule will not be joining the Parks Board until the August date. Mr. Wheeler also talked about the stereo fixes and the new tourism tax.

Announcements:

Jon Lybarger spoke to the Parks Board about the rate increase to the cottages and how that was done because we hired someone to come in and clean them. Mr. Lybarger stated that since we no longer have someone cleaning those cottages, maybe we should look into a cleaning service. Mr. Lybarger suggested Civil Town and Parks Board splitting the cost for the service as they would also be cleaning other buildings in Town.

Mr. Lybarger stated that he has talked to Christy Powell about maybe once a month having a cleaning service come in and do a deep clean on the properties. Andrea Balboni stated that she has received complaints about the cottages when it comes to their cleanliness. Mrs. Balboni stated we have two (2) maintenance guys that are super busy and on top of everything else they have to do; they have to clean those cottages.

Mrs. Balboni stated that because of how busy we are and that maintenance works Monday through Friday and we also need them on weekends to clean the buildings, we have stopped renting the cottages back to back because we just don't have the man power on the weekends. Mr. Lybarger also stated that investing in a cleaning company; we would not have to spend as much on cleaning supplies.

Andrea Balboni will talk to Christy Powell about this issue.

Discussion:

Mary Ann Wilsbacher made a motion to adjourn.

Kevin Reine seconded and the motion carried.

Next Meeting will be **July 6, 2017** at 6:00 pm.

MaryAnn Wilsbacher
President

Raboni
Recorder