

Nyack Parks Commission Minutes January 23, 2019
Meeting Minutes taken by Jim Willcox

Park Commissioners present:

Jim Willcox
Carolyn Cairns
JC Brotherhood
Marie Lorenzini

7 PM Meeting begins

First meeting of the Nyack Waterfront Committee

Waterfront Committee Members Present

Jim Willcox
JC Brotherhood
Marie Lorenzini
Laura Greenberg
Bill Mann
Doug Foster
Bob Squeo

Nyack Waterfront: The formerly independent Nyack Waterfront Committee is now being reorganized as a committee within the Nyack Parks Commission. Its objective is to view the Nyack waterfront not as a series of single entities, but as a unified waterfront space with various elements, joining Memorial Park, the Nyack Marina, the TZ Vista project, and possibly the Cleremont pier into a comprehensive waterfront plan.

Update and Status. Jim provided an update on the status of various projects within the village that could affect the Nyack waterfront.

Marina:

BarTaco has pulled out of the deal, the village is engaging an engineering study to determine the status/condition of the pilings to see if they can support a structure, and if so, what type. If it can, the village would be interested in having another restaurant, or even marina operator, would be interested in a lease/license for the property.

Status of pedestrian bridge: Village believes it is close to an agreement with the owner. If an agreement can be reached, the village will issue an RFP (Request for Proposal) for the construction, which is being covered by a grant. The hope is that construction would happen late spring or summer.

Removal of parking in Memorial Park: Ongoing issue. Parks Commission will likely recommend the Village conduct a re-assessment and redrawing of parking spots to maximize space. According to the village, the lower area is open parking with no allotted spaces for the seaport, the restaurant, slip renters, etc. Also evaluate the use of the upper area where there is allotted permit parking.

After discussion, it was agreed that parking will remain a critical issue for the Village, given that the Master Plan for the park recommends the removal of all but seven parking spaces in Memorial Park itself. (Those spots will be reserved for handicapped parking.) It is likely that the waterfront committee will form a separate sub-committee to investigate all options, including offsite parking, a revision of the master plan to retain parking in Memorial Park, and the need for a parking garage/facility within the marina.

Rowing Club: Art Clark submitted a report on the establishment of a rowing club for the 2018 season. The rowing club had 10 charter members, and will be looking for a president for 2019. A website has been built. As far as the rental operation, Clark reports the single biggest issue is that a high percentage of rentals are same-day excursions, which is impossible for a company based in Cold Spring to accommodate.

Work or improvements that could be addressed in 2019:

- Public Bathrooms and washrooms
- Use of small information kiosk: Pamphlets, information, perhaps even a history of the Nyack waterfront
- Hiring a staff person to oversee marina to ensure launch use payments and slip maintenance/use
- Amenities on the dock (seating, picnic tables) for passive use of the marina
- Possible marina vendors, especially if restaurant isn't in play (food trucks?)
- Increase excursion activities both outbound out of Nyack and as a stop on the Hudson for inbound charters/excursions to bring more day-trippers into Village

After discussion, it was deemed that many of these are longer-term projects that would require funding. Initial objectives could include a beautification of the marina, with flower pots, plantings, benches, and perhaps picnic tables, along with some type of canopy shading. Initial objective would be to better. Jim will reach out to the Nyack Park Conservancy to see if they'd be interested in helping.

Better outreach/marketing of all marina amenities/activities: Better marketing efforts to encourage the use of the marina by promoting all of the activities: slip rentals, Nyack Boat Charter, kayaking/canoeing, picnicking, etc.

Cleremont Pier: Pier is owned by the Cleremont, but might be amenable to purchase by the village, as it requires repair. During the meeting Laura Greenberg, who is president

of the Cleremont Association, said the Cleremont would be amenable to turning over the pier to the Village. Jim suggested that the village would need to get an assessment of the cost of any needed repairs, and the potential increased liability and insurance costs. But it could fit into a broader vision of a waterfront walkway running from new TZ Vista/Tidewater development project, which will include park land. The possibility of new amenities on the pier—including retail opportunities on the first floor of the Cleremont, or having the Nyack Boat Charter operate out of that location, were proposed.

TZ Vista/Tidewater Property Development

The village believes it is close to signing a LADA (land acquisition development agreement), which will likely be reviewed by the village board at the end of February. If approved, construction on the first building could start shortly thereafter. While it appears that part of the deal will result in village-owned parkland adjacent to the water, all the specifics are not yet available. Believe the area will have a riprap front, not a bulkhead. The village will be responsible for maintenance, not clear if the development will be required to create a fund to offset and needed repairs

The committee would like to get more information on the size, exact location, possible amenities, hour of public access and operation, lighting and security, estimates of Village costs and liabilities for maintenance, possible storm damage due to climate change, etc.

Status of Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. Not yet approved, the state has asked for some additional changes due to some new requirements, the village has received an extension for filing/responding.

5-Year Plan. It was suggested that the waterfront committee, along with the Parks Commission, should start develop both short-term goals and 5-year plan to help guide the village in making decisions about the waterfront. The Parks Commission will also work with the waterfront committee to see if a revision to the Memorial Park Master Plan should be considered

8:45 PM Meeting adjourned