



## OBSERVER REPORT

Recreation and Parks Commission  
Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 7 pm  
Jacobi Community Center Conference Room, In person. Not Recorded.  
LWVM Observer - Kay Rieper

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Matt Martin. Present: Linda Rice-Collins, Karin Ernst, Rosanna Ferrante, Shelly Bedrossian, and Peter James. Absent: Jaime Bloch  
The minutes from the last two meetings were approved.

### Appearances

Muffy Paquette, representing the Boosters, requested help with the money needed to replace the turf on Piper Field. It is in its eleventh year and is now posing a safety hazard for our athletes. They aim to do the replacement in the summer of 2024. The Commission is unanimously in favor of supporting the project and will look into whether the Shattuck can be used because the field is on school department property. The cost will be between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

Rick Smyers, representing Green Street Woods, presented plans for Phase II of the bike park development which would involve building two wooden bridges over wetlands. This would have to be done by the Rec and Parks department. It was suggested that the Board contact the neighbors who would be close abutters and invite them to the next meeting to hear the plans.

### Memorial Benches

There was a discussion of memorial benches in general, and in particular, the fourth one at the end of Gallison Ave. The possibility of moving it to the side was discussed although no final decision was reached. It was decided that there should be a specific written policy on memorial benches including establishing what happens when a bench falls into disrepair or if after a certain number of years has passed, the memorial should be replaced.

### Fountain Park steps

Rosanna Ferrante is working on this issue. It will cost \$60,000 to replace the old steps and build 23 granite steps at the site. An architect has determined that there is no ledge. Becky Cutting suggested we offer "memorial steps" for a contribution which everyone thought was a great idea. Further plans and discussion at the next meeting.

### Parks

Linda and Peter have met with the company that is building the lift at the Stramski house. Minor framing changes need to be done in preparation which will take about a day's work. The tennis court "bubbling" which is still under warranty will be repaired soon, and Commission members asked that the warranty be extended. Matt would like to meet with the president of the company.

Pete is having a problem keeping up with the grass as it has been wet, and most of his help has left for school.

Members of the Light Commission requested use of the Rec and Parks land behind Vine Street to install a large battery system for backup during peaking. The Commission feels that they need that land, and there are other possible sites for the battery installation.

Various requests for weddings, cub scout picnics, and boat trailer parking were approved. The next meeting will be September 19 at 7:15.