

Village of Hamburg Recreation Commission Minutes
December 3, 2020 | 7:00pm | Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Paul Peck, Marty Blind, Tricia Miller, Carly Liebenow, Garry Nelson, Anna Masucci

Staff Present: Josh Haeick, Recreation Supervisor
Jacie Gavin, Recreation Leader

Officials Present: Paul Gaughan

Members Absent: Amber Klausen

Recreation Leader Jacie Gavin started her report with an update on the After School Program. She stated that the program is currently on pause with schools being closed. However they are ready to welcome kids back to the building the moment it is safe and kids return to school. She also stated that the Village has agreed to continue paying the employees while the program is on pause as a thank you for all their hard work and to make sure they do not lose any valuable employees in the meantime.

She also noted that the Date Night Great Night Program was scheduled to start, however that has been put on hold as well. They will be ready to go once it is deemed safe.

The bike stations from the Hamburg Rotary Club have been delivered and are being stored in the Maintenance shop until the weather allows them to be installed.

The Village of Hamburg has also launched a virtual recreation initiative. Jacie stated there is now a page on the Village of Hamburg website with direct links to active games, arts and crafts, virtual tours, family fun and science/education activities. The department has also started a "weekend getaway" series. They will be posting a drone tour of different tourist attraction throughout the world for families to enjoy on Fridays. Paul Gaughan and Carly Liebenow both recommended ideas for interactive videos and a gaming competition to be incorporated into the virtual recreation initiative.

Lastly Jacie gave an update on the 2021 MLK Day Food Drive, scheduled for January 18, 2021. There will still be an event, however there will be changes in structure this year to cater to the COVID-19 health precautions. Families that share a residence will drive designated zones for pick up, there will be a contact free drive-thru drop off, and a virtual donation option.

Recreation Supervisor Josh Haeick began his report by stating that there has been no progress on the Legion Field Project since the last meeting. The Village is ready to go to public bid for the project once the contract for the grant money through the state is approved. He said not to panic, that the money was encumbered, the pandemic has just slowed down the timeline for this part of the process.

Josh then updated the commission on the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget. The initial budget outline was completed and sent to Village Hall. The capital projects that were included in this years proposed budget included a new boiler system for the Youth Center, and a truck to replace a 2002 Ford Ranger that is a part of the Parks fleet. Paul Peck recommended to make sure the Village Board knows about the energy savings aspect of a new boiler. It is a large project but the Village will save money in the long run.

Josh has also been working on the Village's new 501c3, The Village of Hamburg Community Foundation. He stated that the articles of organization have been completed and submitted and is hoping to have the foundation officially up and running by mid 2021.

Adding to the virtual recreation discussion, Josh explained another idea that he has been working on called the “Familiar Faces Series.” He has reached out to community members who are teachers, coaches, chefs, fitness instructors, etc. and asked if they would be willing to put together a 15-30 minute video, showing a skill, how to cook, etc. for us to share on our social media platforms. He has had great responses so far and is looking to debut the series starting as early as next week.

The Village is also assisting the Hamburg Dawgs / Hamburg Lady Dawgs and the Hamburg Hawks youth sports organizations with a holiday toy drive. This collection will support upwards of 31 children from the west side of Buffalo who have been identified as “in-need” this holiday season. This will be a drive thru event with two locations (The Hamburg Memorial Youth Center and Leisure Rinks.) A hard date will be announced soon.

Lastly Josh reported that Hamburg Little Cagers youth basketball is still on pause as basketball is still considered a high-risk sport.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacie Gavin
Recreation Leader

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 7, 2021 @ 7:00pm