

Nyack Parks Commission Minutes June 2020
Meeting Held on June 10, 2020
Meeting Minutes taken by Jim Willcox

Park Commissioners present:

Jim Willcox
Bert Hughes
JC Brotherhood
Carolyn Cairns

6:30 PM Meeting Starts

Meeting held in the Nyack Marina

Marina Committee Report: The Nyack Parks Commission's Marina Committee, headed by JC Brotherhood, and village administrator Jim Politi and assistant administrator Ann Marie Tisty, met June 1st to discuss the planned riverwalk path from newly constructed bridge (joining the marina with Memorial Park) to eventually both Main Street and the planned riverfront park that is part of the TZ Vista/Tidewater development project on Gedney Street just south of the Nyack Boat Club.

Before discussing the proposals for the path, there were a few questions about other elements. For example, Jim Willcox asked if lighting was included in plans for bridge. Engineer Rick Gilbert said a color-changing remote-controlled LED lighting system was planned, but it's not of the initial phase of project.

Jim Politi asked about how boat and trailer traffic moved to the launch area. Dockmaster Bob Squeo said that trailers entered usually from Burd St then turned around at eastern end of lot on south side of Marina, and then backed into the ramp area. After launching, trucks and trailers either parked on the south side of the marina lot near the inlet, or exited marina via Burd St.

After a discussion about pedestrian safety in crossing active traffic areas, Carolyn Cairns suggested using speed tables—raised areas where pedestrians would cross vehicular traffic path as a way of reducing speed and clearly indicating a pedestrian walkway. Speed tables could be well-marked via signage and contrasting colors.

There was a consensus that the path move from the bridge along the south end of the marina along the inlet, crossing the parking lot northward to the area at the western section of the marina slips area, and then moving west to the wall that runs behind the pumping station and along the edge of the Spear Street restaurant to the intersection of Burd and River, where the path would then continue north to main along existing streets and sidewalks. (See photo, below.)



Jim Willcox stated he was in the minority, preferring to path to run north along the western bulkhead of the marina to avoid having pedestrians cross two entrances/exits to the southern area of the lot.

JC Brotherhood said that should the village have the funds to move the marina fencing back against the bulkhead, a walkway along the marina fence could be constructed at a later date, but it would include many elements not addressed in the initial funding for the path. Until some determination has been made to the area formerly occupied by the River Club restaurant, the group agreed that the plan as outlined above would be best, as it channels visitors past the restaurant and crosses them at a main intersection rather than in the middle of the block at the Clermont. The issue can be revisited if a new restaurant moves into the River Club space.

Other marina activity: During the Parks Commissioners' visit to the marina, it was observed that numerous cars were parking in the marina to enjoy the view since parking in Memorial Park is currently unavailable. Jim Willcox, who also serves on the board of the Park Conservancy, said he'd like to ask the Conservancy if they'd be interested in a project to improve some of the areas in the marina, especially the open area to the left

of the boat launch, and the strip of land that runs along the western edge of the marina along the river.

Memorial Park: The park is now open, in phase one. The park opens at 6am and closes at dusk, with several guidelines, including no parking in the park, masks required when entering the park or when social distancing can't be maintained, and the children's playground, skate park, splash pad, basketball court and bathrooms all remain closed.

Some observations during the visit:

- People are generally doing a decent job socially distancing, but not as well with masks when entering the park, or wearing them when out on the viewing pier where it's difficult to maintain 6-foot distances.
- Jim Willcox, who lives near the park, noted that a number of people are ignoring the park closing times and continue to gather and party until 10 or 11pm. Also, it appears that at least one or two people were sleeping in the park.
- A number of people aren't obeying the on-leash requirements for dogs in the park, mainly in the morning.
- Kids are using the skatepark despite it being closed; they're simply moving the barriers. During the visit, three or four skaters were observed using the skate plaza.
- A person (New Jersey plates) was seen using the ramp to launch jet skis, in violation of the prohibition against the launching and use of such watercraft in the marina. JC noted that while the signage bars the launch and use of jet skis, the village prohibition is actually against launching any motorized craft under 14 feet, as he helped write that ordinance when her was part of the Parking Authority. The reason for this language was not just to prohibit jet skis, which we were advised was too discriminatory, but to ban several other types of watercraft, such as hovercrafts, which were very disruptive, from being launched in the marina. JC suggested that the Village Attorney look into the language of the original statute to confirm it.
- The boat launch is fairly active, it's not clear how many people are paying the launch use fee, something to perhaps address at a later date.

There was some discussion as to how the village is enforcing the various phase one rules, and who (which entity) is ultimately responsible.

4th of July: There was a question about whether the village will have fireworks on the 4th of July, though it seems unlikely. The Parks Commission will ask the village for confirmation.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

