

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PARK OPERATIONS & MANAGEMENT (O&M)

DATE: MAY 21, 2018

COMMITTEE MEMBER PRESENT:

SUPERVISOR MERLINO

OTHERS PRESENT:

VOTING MEMBERS:

ROBERT BLAIS, MAYOR, VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE

KEVIN HAJOS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK, TOURISM

RONALD F. CONOVER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

JOANN MCKINSTRY, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

SUPERVISORS DICKINSON

STROUGH

HOGAN

SARAH MCLENITHAN, DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER

SUPERVISORS BEATY

DIAMOND

DRISCOLL

FRASIER

GERAGHTY

LOEB

SOKOL

WILD

MICHAEL SWAN, COUNTY TREASURER

FRED AUSTIN, FORT WILLIAM HENRY

DON LEHMAN, THE POST STAR

LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the May 21, 2018 meeting of the Park Operations & Management Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link:

<http://www.warrencountyny.gov/gov/comm/Archive/2018/om/>

Mr. Merlino called the meeting of the Park Operations & Management (O&M) Committee to order at 9:04 a.m. and he noted the lack of Committee quorum. He advised this meant the Committee could not take any action or approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting.

Copies of the agenda were distributed to the Committee members; *a copy of the agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Commencing the agenda review, privilege of the floor was extended to Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, who presented a discussion item pertaining to the lack of a formal agreement with the Village of Lake George for the County to reimburse the Village for maintenance of the Charles R. Wood Park. To address this, he said they could have the County Attorney draft an Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) which could be renewed or reviewed each year based on rate changes for the Village employees or contract work. He explained he would like to present the IMA to the Village once the County Attorney had prepared it and the Committee members in attendance concurred.

Continuing, Mayor Blais indicated users of the Festival Space in December and January had approached him and several Supervisors in regards to the possibility of achieving a discounted rate for booking events during the winter season. He apprised these users had requested a reduced rate of \$500 per day, instead of the \$1,500 per day rate that had been set by the Committee. Mayor

Blais advised caution when considering a lower rate due to the amount of maintenance required during the winter as compared to the summer; he noted if there was a snow or ice storm, plowing and maintaining the sidewalks inside the park, as well as the heating of bathrooms, would be required. He added he was also concerned that reducing the rate could set a precedence. Mr. Merlino suggested lowering the daily rate to \$1,000 per day instead of \$500, as he believed this was a rather low rate. Mayor Blais advised he would discuss this proposed reduction with the Village Board at their meeting tonight. He added that pond ice hockey tournaments required a significant amount of maintenance, which they should consider before rendering a decision to adjust the rates. Mr. Merlino advised he would like to know what decision the Village Board made on the matter before a decision was made at the County level.

Mayor Blais provided an update on events booked for 2018, stating the British Music Invasion was a new event booked for July to raise money for the Strand Theater, and the Charlie Daniels Band, who was originally booked in September, but was rescheduled to July 15th due to a similar venue on the same date at SPAC. He explained the concert would be on the day following the end of the car show event resulting in a busy weekend for the Festival Space. He concluded by stating he was pleased to have two events booked on the same weekend.

Mr. Beaty pointed out if the maintenance costs of holding pond hockey were going to be the same, if not more, then he did not agree with lowering the rate to hold the event. Mr. Merlino noted it would be the first time this particular event was booked at the Charles R. Wood Park and consideration would only be given for the first year to allow the event the opportunity to use the space. Mayor Blais replied he did not think reducing the rate to \$1,000 per day would prevent the event from taking place; however, he stated that they did not want to deter booking for the event because there had already been high interest in the event demonstrated by the phone calls he had received. He mentioned Americade was also holding ice pond hockey event in Crandall Park, in the City of Glens Falls, which would be an asset to the City. Mr. Driscoll mentioned his son had participated in an ice hockey tournament in Saratoga Springs last winter which had attracted a very large crowd. Mayor Blais added he had been advised that pond hockey tournaments were very popular and he should expect a decent crowd.

Next, Mayor Blais indicated the Gaslight Village sign had been installed and he had received a letter from Pete Stager, *President, Old Gaslight Village Association*, who wrote, "What a beautiful presentation. I was impressed/proud and the way it has been introduced to the public is fabulous". Mayor Blais indicated the sign explained what the property was before the Charles R. Wood Park was created and he suggested that anyone who had not seen the sign should check it out.

As there was no further business to come before the Park Operations & Management (O&M) Committee, in the absence of a quorum, Mr. Merlino declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Lovelace, Secretary to the Clerk of the Board