

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PARK O&M

DATE: MARCH 23, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS MERLINO
DICKINSON
MAGOWAN
GERAGHTY
HOGAN (ALTERNATE)

OTHERS PRESENT:

VOTING MEMBERS:

ROBERT BLAIS, MAYOR OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE GEORGE
KEITH LONGHAIR, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, VILLAGE
OF LAKE GEORGE
KEVIN HAJOS, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
LEISA GRANT, PRINCIPAL ACCOUNT CLERK, TOURISM
RACHEL E. SEEBER, CHAIRWOMAN OF THE BOARD
RYAN MOORE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARY ELIZABETH KISSANE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
AMANDA ALLEN, CLERK OF THE BOARD
FRANK E. THOMAS, BUDGET OFFICER
SUPERVISORS BRAYMER
BRUNO
DRISCOLL
FRASIER
LEGGETT
SHEPLER
SMITH
WILD
WAYNE LAMOTHE, COUNTY PLANNER
LIZA OSCHENDORF, DIRECTOR, EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING
ADMINISTRATION
ANDREA PEEPE, WARREN WASHINGTON COUNTY ASSOCIATION FOR
MENTAL HEALTH
SCOTT SOPCZYK, GREATER GLENS FALLS TRANSIT
BRIAN BEAROR, GLENS FALLS FAMILY YMCA
MIKE BITTEL, ADIRONDACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
TAMMIE DELORENZO, ASSISTANT TO THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
DON LEHMAN, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
TOSHA BROWNELL, COMPUTER HELP DESK TECHNICIAN
LESLIE LOVELACE, SECRETARY TO THE CLERK OF THE BOARD

Please note, the following contains a summarization of the March 23, 2021 meeting of the Park Operations & Management (O&M) Committee; the meeting in its entirety can be viewed on the Warren County website using the following link: <https://warrencountyny.gov/mma>

Note: As per Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1: "Article 7 of the Public Officers Law, to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed". Supervisors Merlino, Magowan and Geraghty were physically present, while Supervisors Dickinson and Hogan participated remotely.

Mr. Merlino called the meeting of the Park Operations and Management (O&M) Committee to order at 10:55 a.m.

Copies of the meeting agenda were distributed to those present; those participating remotely accessed the agenda via the Warren County website. *A copy of the agenda is on file with the meeting minutes.*

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. Geraghty and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the previous Committee meeting, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Kevin Hajos, *Superintendent of Public Works*, who apprised there were no action items on the agenda.

Commencing the Discussion Items portion of the agenda, Robert Blais, *Mayor, Village of Lake George*, apprised there were twelve events scheduled for the summer at the Festival Commons at the Charles R. Wood Park, adding it was booked solid for the months of June and September. He said the venue was classified as outdoor entertainment which allowed attendance of 1,040 people and he indicated if all events scheduled took place the estimated revenue would be \$41,000. He stated an application had been submitted by the World Awareness Children's Museum for an annual fund-raising event sampling food by area chefs from 4 - 7 p.m. on a week night and they were requesting a reduced fee for non-profit organizations. He stated there had been two non-profit organizations in the past that had received a reduced fee of \$250 and he requested a reduced fee schedule be set. A lengthy discussion ensued in regards to charging a reduced fee of \$250 for the event and creation of a fee schedule.

Mayor Blais stated the applicant required an answer on the fee charged and he suggested a reduced fee of \$500 per day rather than \$250, as the space could not be rented for two events in one day and would still require an attendant. Mr. Hajos stated the revenue received needed to cover the cost of maintenance and the attendant. Ryan Moore, *County Administrator*, read aloud Resolution No. 222 of 2019 which resolved event fees for the Festival Commons at Charles R. Wood Park. Chairwoman Seeber suggested Mayor Blais, the County Attorney's Office and County Administrators Office work in conjunction with Mr. Merlino on revisions of the fees for an updated resolution.

Motion was made by Mr. Magowan, seconded by Mr. Dickinson and carried unanimously to authorize a reduced fee of \$500 per day to World Awareness Children's Museum for use of the Wood Park during their food sampling event and the necessary resolution was authorized for the April 16th Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.* Note: Subsequent to the meeting it was determined no resolution was needed for this item as the reduced rate was authorized by prior resolution.

Mayor Blais stated Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District had done an inspection on the South Parcel of land and indicated there were issues that needed to be addressed in regards to dog traffic. Mr. Hajos stated he received the report and spoke with James Lieberum, *District Manager, Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District*, in regards to the environmental issues; sediment coming in which would be remedied with DPW assisting in rebuilding rocks in the inlet to the first pond, soil cracking next to a catch basin which looked to be from a snow plow and a significant amount of dog feces on the paths in the park. He said a volunteer day to clean up the park would be held in the near future, but he was not sure how to combat the littering of dog clean up bags, as well as dog feces. Keith Lanfear, *Superintendent of Public Works, Village of Lake George*, suggested one solution would be to ban dogs by posting signs. A brief discussion ensued.

Mr. Moore apprised in regards to the Festival Space fees at the Charles R. Wood Park, Resolution No. 161 of 2020 amended Resolution No. 222 of 2019 and reduced fees by 50% for the remainder of year due to COVID and Resolution No. 413 of 2020 reduced the fee from \$750 to \$250 for the Holiday Light Show.

Mr. Lanfear inquired whether the playground at Charles R. Wood Park would remain closed or if it should be opened, because there were areas that had become dilapidated and dangerous and were in need of routine maintenance. Mr. Hajos apprised the park was closed last year when COVID started because there was not enough staff to sanitize the equipment daily as required and he still did not have the staff to do; however, he noted other playgrounds were reopening. Mr. Moore added playgrounds opened last Summer under restrictions of social distancing and sanitizing and municipal parks had been closed as enforcement became a challenge. A brief discussion ensued during which it was the consensus of the Committee to open the playground to those who chose to use it. Mr. Hajos offered Warren County DPW/Parks & Recreation staff to assist the Village of Lake George with the maintenance work with shrubs/weeding in an effort to help reduce labor and cost to the Village of Lake George. He added an inspection on the playground equipment was necessary due to deterioration.

Continuing with the Referral/Pending Items portion of the agenda, Mr. Hajos advised he planned to inspect the Tiki Resort property along with Messrs. Dickinson and Merlino and speak to the owner to resolve the issue of the deteriorating wall.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion made by Mr. Geraghty, seconded by Mr. Magowan and carried unanimously, Mr. Merlino adjourned the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

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