

Present: Commissioners Kristina Carr, Lisa Jerkowski, Claudia Joseph, Frank Klepeis, Kieran Liggan-Casey, Reta Sorge; Recreation Clerk Dorene Whitaker; Town Board Liaison Ashley Sweeny.

Excused: Commissioner Dave Hattenbrun.

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 pm.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:** R. Sorge moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of June 18, 2025. Seconded by F. Klepeis. All in favor.

2. **Landscaping:** K. Carr reported that there is a delay in installation of the garden at the front of the Rec Center as the landscaping company is behind schedule. C. Joseph requested that the company provide us with a list of proposed plants, as she wants to ensure that invasive and/or toxic plants are avoided. K. Carr will request this.

3. **Playground:** D. Whitaker reported that we are waiting for the company to install the replacement teeter-totter and a bar for the handicapped accessible swing, and for their suggestion for one additional piece of equipment.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Programming:** K. Carr reported that the Tailgate Garden Swap in June was well-received. Qi Gong classes are doing well, with 15-20 students per session. Aquoga has had close to 40 attendees, and the Artistic Swimming program is growing. The Commission agreed to hold Game Nights again in the fall; dates TBD at the August meeting. K. Carr presented the resume of Kathy Carey-Ackermann to take over the teaching of Gentle Yoga, and moved that the Commission recommend that the Town Board hire her. Seconded by K. Liggan-Casey. All in favor.

K. Carr presented a proposal for a 2-part Harvest Cooking Series for September, taught by the same duo that led a successful series in 2024, and moved to recommend that this be approved by the Town Board. Seconded by R. Sorge. All in favor.

2. **Pool:** D. Whitaker gave details on a recent injury sustained by a youngster requiring ambulance transfer to a local Emergency Room where he received stitches; this was reviewed by the Pool Manager and all protocols were followed correctly.

D. Whitaker reported that attendance is down significantly; she attributes this to the new County policy of free transportation and admission to the Ulster County Pool for people on Medicaid or food assistance.

C. Joseph reported that several trees are growing near the backwash tanks, and advised that they be removed ASAP.

K. Carr brought up the issue of lack of shade at our pool, for which she has been receiving some complaints from the public. Individual umbrellas provided in the past are all destroyed.

Permanent shade structures cost approximately \$10,000 each and would require grant funding, which will be considered for next year. Pop-up canopies have been suggested, but the Pool

Manager has reservations about the lifeguards taking responsibility for set-up and take-down, and they might be dangerous in a sudden storm. Some commissioners voiced concern about people fighting for access to shade, and thought that patrons should bring their own hats and sun umbrellas. For now, no steps will be taken.

3. **Budget:** D. Whitaker is beginning the process of creating the Department's 2026 budget and suggestions were solicited. Budget "wishlists" from 2022 and 2024 were reviewed. Several ideas were proposed.

C. Joseph has been reviewing last year's expenditures and noted that electric bills vary widely, being quite high in the winter months. K. Carr has been monitoring the solar array output and will bring that data to the next meeting. Inspection of our four furnaces will be performed in the fall and their efficiency will be assessed then.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm. The next meeting will be August 20 at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Carr, Chair