

Westchester Parks Foundation, Inc.
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Thursday, December 7, 2023
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Trattoria Vivolo, Harrison, NY

****MINUTES****

In attendance:

Seth Mandelbaum	Jane Solnick
Tony Rizzuto	Shelby Green
Mark Tulis	Michael Romita
Jan Johnsen	Erica Child
Dorothy Plechaty	Tino Kamarck
Tom Heaslip	Keith Betensky
Larry Wilson	Joe Graziose
Nanette Bourne	John Sullivan
Glenn Pacchiana	Marc Berman
Chris Cawley	Steve Gifford
Carolyn Moriarty	Bill Greenawalt
Henry Neale	Kathleen O'Connor

PRC – Peter Tartaglia	Neil Squillante
William Bland	

Staff – Joe Stout	Christine La Porta
Erin Cordiner	Eric Harvey
Mike Rooney	Megan Leahy
Adam Lippman	Evan Felicetti
Shreya Kontham	Elyssa Martinez
Sam Twardy	Mary Benjamin

Meeting begins at 12:20pm with Seth Mandelbaum asking the board for a moment of silence to remember Trustee and Secretary John Kirkpatrick. SM then introduces new board members Shelby Green and Erica Child and welcomes them to the board. SM proceeds with introduction of the Consent Agenda. Bill Greenawalt notes a small correction to the Minutes of September 7. A vote on the consent agenda is requested – Mark Tulis makes a motion to approve, seconded by Tom Heaslip, all in favor and none opposed.

SM begins Chairperson's report by asking Joe Stout to give a brief overview of the budget (attached along with memo). JAS gives a summary, including that this budget includes a Trails Without Limits Coordinator, funded for the first two years by a grant from the Neilsen Foundation. JAS adds that our first Volunteer Coordinator was also funded by a two-year challenge grant, which WPF then paid for through other revenue sources. He adds that we expect to end 2023 in the black, and have already passed the break even point for Winter Wonderland ticket sales. John Sullivan asks how many visitors we have seen, which is already 20-25,000. JAS explains the pricing and time slots, and notes that the 2024 budget includes an increase in price of \$2 per ticket to \$37. SM requests any further questions and Tom Heaslip makes a motion to approve the budget. Chris Cawley seconds the motion, all are in favor and none opposed. 2024 Budget passes.

SM, JAS, CL thank all for the support and passing of the budget. SM introduces the re-election of trustees to the next three year term. SM reads the names of all up for re-election (attached). Mark Tulis makes a motion to reappoint the trustees to new three-year terms. Seconded by Marc Berman, all in favor, none opposed. SM introduces the final votes, of which Tino Kamarck recuses himself. The appointment of TK to the position of Secretary of the Board. John Sullivan makes a motion to approve, seconded by Tony Rizzuto. All in favor, none opposed. The posthumous appointment of John Kirkpatrick to Emeritus Trustee is then introduced and passed with unanimous consent.

JAS gives the Executive Director's Report, notes to all that the Emerging Leaders Council is joining the luncheon and thanks Joe Graziose for his efforts in leading this group. JAS gives an update on the Tibbetts Brook Park Gazebo project, thanking the Parks Department and the Moriarty Family for their support and notes that construction is expected to begin shortly now that permits are received and plans lined up. JAS adds that we recently received a large donation of \$150,000 from the Valerie Ann Briehl Foundation to support the construction of two Merriwood cabins and create a camper scholarship fund. JAS asks the Development team to give an update on Giving Tuesday, Evan Felicetti explains the progress on the campaign including funding raised is halfway to rehabilitation of the next cabin. JAS thanks the staff and mentions that the BOL has added the Park Planner position to the County budget, a longtime advocacy initiative of WPF. Glenn Pacchiana asks how much was raised by Giving Tuesday, and EF explains that we're halfway to one cabin but think that doing repeated campaigns all year may have impacted the donations. Henry Neale asks that a discussion of Pocantico Lakes be added to the December Executive Committee Agenda. Larry Wilson asks if we have the appropriate response from DEC regarding Tibbetts Lake and JAS confirms that the permit is received.

Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor takes a moment to thank the board and staff of WPF for their support throughout the year, and mentions that they have an upcoming conference in February.

Meeting adjourns and holiday luncheon begins.