

July Meeting Minutes

Taken August 5th

Attendees:

Jim Willcox

Andrea DeVitto

Minerva Parker

Chris Lattanzio

Joe Carlin, village liaison to the Park Committee

Meeting (virtual) starts at 7:00 pm

Memorial event in the park: Discussion around a balloon-release memorial in Memorial Park for a motorcyclist. Wondering if it was a village-sanctioned event. There were several issues related to the event, the main one being that a very large number of motorcycles drove across the marina bridge and into the park, a clear violation of the "no vehicles in Memorial Park " rule. Also, they would have needed a permit to hold such an event, and balloon releases should be banned if they aren't already, due to the ecological and environmental damage they can cause, as well as being harmful to the birds, waterfowl, and fish that ingest them.

According to Andrea, the mayor contacted the Orangetown Police, who arrived on the scene but did little besides talk to the group. The group eventually cleared out after the service was over. There are videos of the motorcycles riding into the park, which were shared with the village. The event had been posted on social media, inviting people to meet up on Route 59 and then come to the park and join in.

Joe Carlin said that we should call or text him when something like that happens again. The idea was again raised for Nyack to have its own police department and to foster greater engagement between the police and the community.

It was suggested that Parks Commission members or the mayor attend an Orangetown town board meeting and ask what help the town can provide to improve enforcement for many of Nyack's issues in the marina and Memorial Park. All the Parks Commission can do is record the event and report it. Enforcement remains a concern for the village in several areas.

The idea of closing the park and marina after closing was discussed, with bollards or gates to prevent vehicles from accessing either area. There was a question of whether people would abide by a gate or simply break through it. Joe said he would bring it up with the village administrator.

Marina situation: This issue persists, with loud cars, trucks, and motorcycles revving their engines and racing, ignoring stop signs, and continuing to party and play loud music in the marina after hours.

Nearby neighbors and residents of the Clermont apartments regularly call OPD, but violators are never ticketed or fined; they just get warnings, so there's no consequence, and they return once the police are gone. This has been ongoing for several years.

Jim noted that the number of slip renters in the marina seemed significantly down from last year, perhaps due to the atmosphere there. Jim mentioned that he no longer stays overnight on his boat for these reasons. It was suggested that the village or Parks Commission survey current and former slip renters and ask if these activities are affecting decisions to keep boats in the marina.

It was also mentioned that much of what is happening in the marina is now also happening in the parking lot behind Veterans Memorial Park on Main Street. Cars idling with loud music playing, open drinking, and people hanging out. This could have a detrimental effect on restaurants and shops in the area, where people may not feel comfortable coming into town.

Jet skiers in the marina: Jim sent photos of about a half dozen jet skis launching from the marina, a prohibited activity. Jim emailed the mayor and village administrator, suggesting better signage and increased fines for violations, along with wider-angle cameras that could capture the license plates of vehicles launching the jet skis. Better public awareness that jet skis are banned from the marina is also important. And again, the issue is a lack of enforcement. It's also unclear how many boats are paying the fee to use the launch and store their trailers.

It was also noted that the village may consider closing the launch ramp entirely next season, except for early and late in the season, for use only by slip renters. Jim said he believes this requires a much more considered conversation, given Nyack's history as a waterfront community, with input from the Parks Commission, which technically oversees the marina as it is considered parkland. Providing access to the river is a key element of Nyack's waterfront plan.

Meeting adjourned 7:40 pm