

**WEST SENECA YOUTH & RECREATION COMMISSION -- MEETING MINUTES WEST SENECA
COMMUNITY CENTER, 1300 UNION ROAD, WEST SENECA, NY 14224**

DATE

May 20, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Town of West Seneca Youth & Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Blonski at 6:07 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

1. Maura Lillis Blonski, Chairperson
 2. Caron Morris
 3. Kathryn Adrian
 4. Meichle Latham
- David Cox, Recreation Director
 - Mary Sherman, Town Board Liaison

Absent:

1. Carol Jarczyk
 2. Matt Bauer
- Brian Adams, Highway Superintendent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ms. Adrian, seconded by Ms. Morris, to approve the minutes from January 21, 2026.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

COMMUNICATIONS

- Renaming 3 Parks for Veterans

Chairperson Blonski shared an update from Highway Superintendent Adams regarding the renaming of three selected parks. Mr. Adams reported that the Joint Veterans Committee will provide recommendations for the renaming of Carriage Park, Westgate Park, and Mill Road Park. Mr. Adams also noted that an updated grant application is underway to use funds for sun shades at the pool and fencing for the dog park area at Mill Road Park. The goal is to have the sun shades

**WEST SENECA YOUTH & RECREATION COMMISSION -- MEETING MINUTES WEST SENECA
COMMUNITY CENTER, 1300 UNION ROAD, WEST SENECA, NY 14224**

installed by the end of June and the fencing later in the year following repairs to storm lines and hazardous tree removal.

- Data Inquiry

Chairperson Blonski requested an update on the data report previously discussed in January, seeking additional details on attendance, budgeting, and post-program surveys. Recreation Director Cox confirmed he has the information and will provide it to the Commission.

- Recreation Director's Report

Recreation Director Cox provided a comprehensive update on Recreation Department activities, summer programs, and facilities. Mr. Cox announced the splash pad opened on May 18 and the pool is on track for a target opening of late June. The Town Board has approved using Ellison & Associates for lifeguard certification and training to address a shortage of certified swim instructors. The department has hired 28 lifeguards to date. Mr. Cox and four leadership team members will undergo a "train the trainer" program to bring all certification processes in-house, creating a sustainable staffing model.

Mr. Cox reported that expanded pool hours have been published, including more family and evening swim times, and moving the adult lap swim to 9:00 AM. A dedicated, full-time swim lane has been ordered. New programs will be introduced, including "Fridays at the Pool," featuring games, trivia, and music. A new unlimited-use pool membership pass, managed through the MyRec system, has replaced the previous punch-card system, with 29 of these new passes sold to date. A membership policy is being developed for non-bathers. Sun shades are expected to be installed by the pool's opening.

Mr. Cox reported that registration for summer programs began on April 1, 2026, and most programs are at full capacity with waitlists composed entirely of residents. In response to public demand from surveys, half-day camps have been expanded from 2.5 hours to 4 hours, and before-and-after care is being offered. A full-day camp was not feasible this summer due to state permitting requirements. New initiatives for parks include "Sunday Funday," a weekly event rotating to different neighborhood parks, a "Rec in the Park" program stationing staff at a central location like the Soccer Park, and a staffed kids' area at the weekly Farmer's Market.

Ms. Latham asked if the Ellison "train the trainer" program could become a revenue generator. Mr. Cox responded that the primary focus is currently on opening the Town's pool. Ms. Latham also inquired about residency rules for the family pass. Mr. Cox confirmed that non-resident rates are double the resident rates and that anyone listed in a resident's MyRec account, including non-resident grandparents, can be included on the pass. He stated the department collects all usage data for future analysis to ensure policies do not create barriers for families.

- Additional Commission Meeting(s)

Motion by Chairperson Blonski, seconded by Ms. Adrian, to schedule a Youth & Recreation Commission meeting for June 17, 2026.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

**WEST SENECA YOUTH & RECREATION COMMISSION -- MEETING MINUTES WEST SENECA
COMMUNITY CENTER, 1300 UNION ROAD, WEST SENECA, NY 14224**

The Commission agreed to keep meetings scheduled for July 15, 2026, and September 16, 2026, with future dates to be assessed at the June meeting.

Ms. Adrian raised concerns about member attendance and the importance of the Commission's role. She suggested that the Commission's input be sought before meeting agendas are finalized and publicly posted.

Ms. Adrian also referenced a prior capital plan survey and stressed the importance of honoring that public input when building the new budget. Mr. Cox confirmed he has reviewed that document.

Town Board Liaison Sherman stated that Mr. Bob Bridenstein is reviewing applicants for the vacant Commission seat, but there has not been significant interest. Ms. Latham also recommended proactive recruitment for new members, noting her term and Ms. Morris's term expire in December.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Ashley Nicholson of West Seneca asked about the procedure for the diving well swim test with the new permanent swim lane. Mr. Cox stated that a leadership team is evaluating all pool policies, including the swim test, for modification.

Mr. Rob of Ebenezer commented on the proposal to rename three town parks for veterans. He read from a June 21, 2010, Town Board meeting resolution that dedicated Centennial Park as Veterans Memorial Park. Mr. Rob stated that as the Town of West Seneca maintains a Veterans Memorial Pool, veterans and active-duty service members should not be charged an admission fee. He requested the Commission recommend waiving pool fees for veterans. In response, Mr. Cox noted that discounted veteran and senior rates for pool passes are already in place and that the department must be mindful of high operational costs.

Mr. Rob asked if any programs had waiting lists. Mr. Cox confirmed all summer programs have waitlists except for the "Learn to Play Sports" program. Mr. Cox mentioned that the ice rink will be utilized for summer camp activities to expand capacity.

Finally, Mr. Rob requested the return of picnic tables to the pool area, the addition of tables in the waiting area outside the pool, and the installation of more bike racks. Mr. Cox confirmed picnic tables will be placed inside the pool area and that he would address the other items.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Chairperson Blonski, seconded by Ms. Latham, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 PM.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

**WEST SENECA YOUTH & RECREATION COMMISSION -- MEETING MINUTES WEST SENECA
COMMUNITY CENTER, 1300 UNION ROAD, WEST SENECA, NY 14224**

Respectfully submitted by Matthew Fincel, Secretary to the Youth & Recreation Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Fincel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "F".