

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Town of West Seneca Youth & Recreation Commission was called to order by Chairperson Blonski at 6:03 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present:

1. Maura Lillis Blonski, Chairperson
2. Kathryn Adrian
3. David Cox
4. Caron Morris

Absent:

5. Carol Jarczyk (Excused)
6. Meichle Latham
7. Matt Bauer

Ex Officio Members Present:

- Brian Adams, Highway Superintendent

COMMUNICATIONS

- Dog Park Location Recommendation

Highway Superintendent Adams reported that Mill Road Park remains the preferred location for a dog park after review of alternative sites.

Motion by Mr. Cox, seconded by Ms. Morris, to recommend to the Town Board the dog park be located at Mill Road Park.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

- Recreation Supervisor's Report and Program Data (Summer 2025)

Chairperson Blonski reported that the Recreation Supervisor's seasonal report was presented to the Town of West Seneca and accepted.

Mr. Cox requested more data to inform 2026 operations recommendations, commentary with the data on program performance and future planning, and budget breakdowns to align spending with program demand. Mr. Cox also requested information about any satisfaction surveys of residents.

Ms. Adrian stated registration counts differ from actual attendance and emphasized evaluating service to waitlisted residents. Ms. Adrian requested attendance metrics and resident versus non-resident usage to prioritize high-demand programs.

Chairperson Blonski stated she will circulate the Supervisor's data report and will request additional details on attendance, budgeting, and any post-program surveys assessing participant satisfaction and desired changes from Recreation Supervisor Lauren Masset. Chairperson Blonski will obtain updated data for the next meeting.

- 2026 Veterans Park Pool Fees

Chairperson Blonski reported that pool admission and lesson fees were not increased last year but that Recreation Supervisor Lauren Masset now advises an increase in fees.

Mr. Cox cited figures of approximately \$163,000 in pool operating costs and \$43,000 to \$49,000 in revenue, expressing a desire to narrow the fiscal gap.

Ms. Adrian emphasized affordability and accessibility of Town of West Seneca recreation services and cautioned that excessively high fees would reduce access.

Motion by Mr. Cox, seconded by Ms. Morris, to present to the Town Board a recommendation to adjust Veterans Park Pool fees as follows: single-visit resident to \$4; single-visit non-resident to \$7; resident 10-visit punch pass to \$25; non-resident 10-visit punch pass to \$50.

Ayes: Maura Lillis Blonski, David Cox, Caron Morris.

Noes: Kathryn Adrian.

Abstain: None

Motion: Failed

- Proposed Activity Center & Ice Rink

Chairperson Blonski reported no update from Councilmember Sherman.

- Recommendation for Park Renaming

Highway Superintendent Adams recommended honoring three veterans identified by the Joint Veterans Committee with recognition via signage and plaques, potentially at separate parks.

Mr. Manley, Chairman of the West Seneca Joint Veterans Committee, summarized the Veterans Committee's review of approximately 50–70 West Seneca residents who died in service across multiple conflicts and reiterated the desire to honor specific individuals at parks within the Town of West Seneca.

Mr. Cox requested specific park recommendations and research to avoid renaming sites already honoring individuals, with intent of presenting three park assignments with three names at the next Youth & Recreation Commission meeting.

Motion by Mr. Cox, seconded by Chairperson Blonski, to recommend to the Town Board that three separate parks be named in honor of three separate individuals per the Veterans Committee's recommendation, with specific park assignments to be researched and presented at the next meeting.

Ayes: All Noes: None Abstain: None Motion: Carried

- Community Survey and Erie County Grant Allocation

Highway Superintendent Adams reported an Erie County grant had been planned for a sand volleyball court adjacent to Veterans Park Pool and for sunshade structures. Mr. Adams stated an extension is needed and that funds may be reallocated to alternative amenities or parks based on updated recommendations and survey data.

The Commission expressed general support for sunshade structures at the pool and interest in more sustainable amenities (e.g., dog park fencing, pickleball courts, basketball resurfacing) than a sand volleyball court. Highway Superintendent Adams will email survey information to members; members will provide individual recommendations to Highway Superintendent Adams for a consolidated proposal to the Town Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rob of Ebenezer spoke in support of casual-use volleyball rather than tournament venues, suggested designated dog areas at multiple parks subject to budgeting, and expressed opposition to raising pool fees. He noted lifeguard supervisory pay rates as a reason for the pool operating costs.

WEST SENECA COMMUNITY CENTER
1300 UNION ROAD
WEST SENECA, NY 14224

WEST SENECA YOUTH & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 21, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Cox, seconded by Ms. Adrian, to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Motion: Carried

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

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