

**Meeting of the
Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board
450 Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley NY, 10502
December 17, 2025
2:00 PM**

PRC BOARD MEMBERS

Pamela Tillinghast Dubitsky, Chairwoman
Legislator Benjamin Boykin
Debra Clay
Sobeida Cruz
J. Henry Neale Jr.
Vishnu Patel
Martin Rogowsky, Vice Chairman
Joel Seligman
Benjamin Sirota

PRC STAFF

Kathleen O'Connor, Commissioner
Peter Tartaglia, First Deputy Commissioner
William Bland, Deputy Commissioner
Judith J. Allen, Executive Assistant, Board Meeting Secretary
Rob Lopane, Director of Program Development – PRC Planning
Kerry Riguzzi, Manager – Fiscal Operations

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Hugh Greechan, Commissioner, DPW&T (absent)
Blanca Lopez, Deputy Commissioner Planning (absent)

GUESTS

Robert DelTorto, President of the Bronx River Parkway Reservation Conservancy
Gayle Katzman, First Deputy Commissioner DPW&T (absent)
Aviva Meyer, Westchester County Liaison

ITEM NO. 1 – APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES

Chairwoman Dubitsky welcomed the Board to the final meeting of 2025 and called the meeting to order. Upon motion by Ms. Cruz and seconded by Mr. Patel, the Board unanimously approved the November 20, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.

ITEM NO. 2 – CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairwoman Dubitsky introduced and welcomed new member Benjamin Sirota.

ITEM NO. 3 – COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner O’Connor welcomed the Board and presented her monthly report, noting:

- Winter Wonderland made 30% more in revenue this year than last year, and approximately 4,000 people attended the walk-through opening weekend.
- Holiday Lights on the Farm at Muscote Farm and Holidays on the Hill Train Show at Lasdon are two other Parks Department holiday events.
- Golf will close in late December to fix the greens and turfs after another successful year.
- The County Center is booming and upcoming events include Willie Colon and Friends, Sumo Wrestling, and Slam Dunk Competition.
- Although beaches and pools are closed, parks remain open and staff continue to plan events.
- The Department is already planning for Playland’s May 2026 opening.
- The 2026 PRC all-staff conference will be held in February.
- Mr. Lopane will spearhead the new Master Plan.
- The Department continues to prepare for programming at Camp Morty, which is managed by the Westchester Parks Foundation.

Commissioner O’Connor presented members with The Compass, an internal newsletter given to all employees that is filled with news about employees and the parks.

ITEM NO. 4 – ACTION ITEMS**A. Fee Increases**

First Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia presented the Board with a request for approval of additional 2026 fee increases - for the golf courses and for Blue Mountain Sportsman Center - although Board members had already approved 2026 park fee increases at two prior Board meetings. He noted that these additional fee increases were included in the 2026 County Budget recently approved by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, acknowledging that this did not follow the legal process set forth in the Westchester County Charter whereby the Parks Board must approve all fee increases included in the County Budget prior to its approval by the Board of Legislators. Board members responded by expressing serious concern that a Parks Board Special Meeting had not been called to approve these additional fee increases, and that the Legislators had approved the 2026 County Budget with the additional fee increases although they had not yet been approved by the Parks Board as required by the County Charter. Following an extensive and robust debate, Ms. Cruz made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Rogowsky, to approve the additional fee increases, with the provision that Chairwoman Dubitsky and Vice Chairman Rogowsky would reach out to the Board of Legislators and express the Parks Board’s serious concern that the legal process set forth in the County Charter had not been followed. All Board members voted to approve the fee increases with that provision, except Ms. Clay, who abstained.

ITEM NO. 5 – INFORMATION ITEMS**A. Overview & Discussion of Draft Master Plan**

Chairwoman Dubitsky emphasized the importance of a new Master Plan for the County parks and noted that Board members should be included in the process of preparing the Plan. First Deputy Commissioner Tartaglia reminded members that the previous Master Plan was implemented in 2003. He and Mr. Lopane presented an overview of the new Master Plan which, once implemented, will guide the Parks Department for 15-20 years ahead. Mr.

Lopane noted that the first step was to prepare the Request for Proposal (RFP) to hire an outside consulting firm. Board members asked questions and discussed the new Plan.

B. Update on Scouts Field

Commissioner O'Connor stated that Westchester County and the Boy Scouts are close to reaching an agreement regarding Scouts Field.

C. Certificate of Appreciation – Legislator Ben Boykin

Chairwoman Dubitsky noted that Legislator Boykin was retiring from the Board of Legislators and thanked him, adding that the Parks Board would be assigned a new legislator liaison in the new year. Vice Chairman Rogowsky added that Legislator Boykin had served as Chair of the Board of Legislators and President of the New York State Association of Counties, overseeing its 100th Anniversary, and had devoted many years of invaluable service to the County and City of White Plains. Board members thanked him and wished him the very best.

D. New Board Members, Reappointment of Existing Board Members

Chairwoman Dubitsky reminded members that, if they know anyone interested in becoming a member of the Parks Board, they should submit that person's resume to County Executive Jenkins.

ITEM NO. 6 – MEMBERS REPORTS & COMMENTS

A. Members' Reports

None

B. Board of Legislators Liaison Report

None.

ITEM NO. 7 – OTHER BUSINESS & COMMENTS BY GUESTS

None

ITEM NO. 8 – DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. Upon motion by Vice Chair Rogowsky and seconded by Ms. Clay, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.

Submitted by,
Judith Allen