

A workshop of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on March 20, 2018 in the Town of Moreau Municipal Building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York for the purpose of discussing the proposed Universally Accessible Playground.

The Supervisor called the workshop to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Town Clerk called the roll.

**Town Board Members Present**

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| John Hogan                | Councilman   |
| Alan VanTassel            | Councilman   |
| Gina LeClair              | Councilwoman |
| Kyle Noonan               | Councilman   |
| Theodore T. Kusnierz, Jr. | Supervisor   |

**Town Board Members Absent**

None

**Also present:** Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk; Sandy Mahoney, Recreation Program Director; Jim Martin, Zoning Administrator; Randy Hoffman, Buildings & Grounds Working Supervisor; Lisa Tonnesen-McCorkell, The LA Group; Village Resident: Brigid Martin

The Supervisor welcomed everyone to the workshop and asked Ms. Mahoney to give a brief overview of how the playground came about. Before Ms. Mahoney started he mentioned that there is \$57,833.00 designated for the playground, which came from donations, the South High Marathon Dance and a match from the Town.

Ms. Mahoney gave a short presentation on how the idea for the playground came about as well as how they formed a committee to come up with ideas. She stated that the playground project will be a community built project with much of the work being done by volunteers. She continues to do fundraising and searching for available grant money.

Councilman Hogan asked if the parking areas would be affected and Ms. Mahoney replied that they wouldn't be. He also asked if there was a concern with baseballs since the playground is so close to Field #2. Ms. Mahoney stated that the swings are there right now and it hadn't been a concern to this point. She also commented that there will be a fence around the playground.

Councilman Hogan asked how many entrances and exits there would be and Ms. Mahoney replied "two". Councilman Hogan commented that parents like to see who's coming and going out of the playgrounds.

Brigid Martin asked how much the project would cost. Mr. Martin replied that 1/3 of the project was costed out and 2/3 were not. He stated that the estimated cost of the entire playground 3 years ago was \$340,000.00. Mr. Martin stated that he thought there was additional grant funding available through Carrie Woerner's and Kathy Marchione's offices. Mr. Martin explained how a community purchasing program works and how it would alleviate a bidding process. He explained that his office was invited to this workshop to help re-energize the project. He stated that there have been a lot of good ideas and a lot of work done on the project but he understood that there's no one person to put all the pieces together to get the ball moving again. He stated that there are some elements of the design that were well thought through, that are representative of the input from both committee members and children but thought that there might be a few items that aren't a priority. He suggested that the Board may want to consider a few different elements, like open free play. He stated that there is a need for a refreshing of the design and even if the design remains the same, an updated cost estimate is imperative to see where we're at and to see if the project should be done in phases. He stated that his firm could also help with finding grant money.

Councilman Hogan thought the design looked like it had 4 different parts and asked if it could be phased in 4 parts. Mr. Martin replied that it was very possible.

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The Supervisor commended all who worked on the project and stated that the Town Board is committed to increasing recreational opportunities. He stated that they're working on a 5 year master plan, which will help with the direction they want to go. He also stated that there were a few issues that they needed to be sensitive to.

#1. Using a Sole Source would be against the Town's procurement policy, unless it's a special situation and he didn't feel that this situation would qualify.

#2. Regarding funding, there is a big difference between what funds are available vs. the projected costs.

The Supervisor commented that several years ago, with matching funds, the Town was able to put in a new softball quad for ¾ of a million dollars. He stated that the fields service a lot of the community but also stated that the proposed playground is specific to only one group. He stated that they need to look to see how they want to spend the revenue the Town has access to.

3. Regarding State Funding – Supervisor Kusnierz stated that this project will cost much more than what they can raise by fees from developers. He stated that he was well versed in the SAM Grant process. He stated that it's a State and municipal grant program with a lot of constraints and oversight. He also stated that it's a reimbursement program. The money has to be spent up front and then it's reimbursed. He stated that the Town would have to have access to money up front. Ms. Mahoney asked what the turnaround time was and the Supervisor replied that it is a multi-layered process and it typically takes about 16 months.

Ms. Mahoney stated that the playground is not just for children with disabilities, it's for all children and their families. She wanted it to be clear that it wouldn't be limited. Mr. Martin stated that they need to factor into the design, what elements need to be contracted and what labor can be donated on a volunteer basis. He also commented that they could approach the project in multi-year phases.

Councilman VanTassel asked for clarification on the figure of \$340,000.00. He asked if this price was an all in number for the project and Mr. Martin replied that he was correct. Councilman VanTassel asked if it included the design fees and Mr. Martin stated that he believed it did. He also thought it included the costs of some of the volunteer help.

The Supervisor stated, that in most instances, professional services are not reimbursable by SAM Grants. Mr. Martin asked if there were special procurement policies for the Grant. The Supervisor stated that every year the program evolves. He stated that he wasn't aware of a MWBE component to the Grant.

Councilwoman LeClair stated that the Town has some nice pieces of playground equipment adjacent to the community garden and asked if they could be incorporated into the new plans. Ms. Mahoney stated that they've looked into using some of the equipment.

Councilman VanTassel asked Mr. Martin if his firm has worked on any other universal playgrounds and Mr. Martin replied that they had and gave Moreau Elementary School and Gavin Park as examples. Councilman VanTassel asked Mr. Martin if there were any other creative ideas for fund raising that haven't been considered. Mr. Martin stated that first they need to determine the cost and then to track down the SAM Grants. He suggested that they get a commitment verbally and deferred to the Supervisor to get that secured. He stated, that once they understand the revenue sources, they can try to leverage more from local foundations and benefactors. He stated that the next part of the strategy is how to leverage funds in terms of CFA submissions and how it relates to the phasing plan.

Ms. Mahoney stated that she had been approached by a couple companies, who are willing to make donations but in return would like their names noted by a plaque of some sort.

The Supervisor stated that he liked the concept as there has never been an extensive play area for kids. He commented that when older siblings are playing sports, the young ones have nothing to do. He stated that this was a huge need for the community. He stated that they need to get a realistic handle on what they

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can afford. He suggested coming up with three different scenarios: Low end cost, middle of the road cost and a high end cost. He also suggested bricks instead of fence posts for donations because there are more bricks that will be put down vs. fence posts. He did say that they could do both.

Ms. Mahoney asked the Town Board if they were ok with the Playground Committee meeting with Jim Martin and then bringing the ideas back to the Town Board. The Supervisor stated that he was ok with that but also commented that the Recreation Committee should be involved. Mr. Martin stated that the LA Group would first give a proposal so that the Town Board knows what their plans will be. He asked if that would be acceptable so that everyone understands what their role is and what their costs will be. He commented that he would provide that right away.

Ms. Mahoney asked if it was ok to look into grant money. Councilman VanTassel asked her to define who would be looking into this and Ms. Mahoney replied "the committee". The Supervisor stated that he wouldn't turn down money from anyone. He also stated that Senator Marchione has just secured \$100,000.00 in SAM Grant funding for the Fire Company. He stated that the Senator represents a very large area and suggested that the committee shouldn't count on additional funding from her office.

The Supervisor stated that once he gets the proposal from The LA Group, he'll get copies to the Town Board and will add it as an agenda item for a Town Board meeting shortly after.

Ms. Mahoney thanked the Town Board for allowing the project to move forward.

Councilwoman LeClair asked about the next round of money available for the Nolan Road project. Mr. Martin stated that they would file a new application at no cost to the Town but also stated that they need to find out what was wrong or rather what the weaknesses were on the original application. He suspected, that because the land wasn't nailed down 100%, that might have been part of the problem. Mr. Martin stated that the announcement for funding comes in late May. Submission of the new application would be in late July. He stated that the review at the regional level starts in October. The application then leaves the region with recommendations and goes to the State for their decision in early to mid-December. If awarded, the Grant contract would go out in January or February. He stated that access to the money would come late spring to early summer. He also mentioned that this grant is a reimbursement type. You would have to spend the money up front. Councilwoman LeClair stated that BOCES is willing to help with the project and Mr. Martin stated that a value can be assigned to the labor and that can go towards the matching share. Councilwoman LeClair asked if the rental of equipment can be used toward the share. Mr. Martin stated that he could pose that question.

Mr. Martin stated again that the re-submission of this grant application would be at no charge to the Town.

Councilman VanTassel asked how much money the Town was looking for from this grant. Mr. Martin recalled that it was in the \$40,000 range for phase I of the waterfront project.

Mr. Martin stated that he believed OSI has purchased a 1,000 acre parcel in between the Town's Park and the Moreau State Park, which will be sold to NYS for their trail system. He stated that eventually, you'll be able to go from Cooper's Cave in the Village all the way through the Town and out to Moreau State Park.

The workshop concluded at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeann McCabe  
Town Clerk