

Winchester Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, July 28, 2014
6:30pm

Meeting Location: Lord Fairfax Room, War Memorial Building

Present: John Bentley (Chairman), Shelly Lee (Vice-Chairman), Jules Bacha, Kyle Homan, and Rosie Schiavone

Absent: Matt Mintschenko and Brian Wigley

City Staff: Jennifer Jones, Lisa Hamaker and Eden Freeman; City Manager

Media: Derek Owens, Winchester Star

Guests: None

John Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Approval of June 2014 Minutes:

A motion was made by Kyle Homan to approve the June 23, 2014, minutes as presented; Jules Bacha seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comments:

No Public Comments

Chairman Comments: John Bentley

No comments.

Director's Report: Jennifer Jones

• **Athletic Fields Turfgrass Update**

- A) Yost Field: Sod is firmly rooted.
- B) Preston Field: Back to cool season grass, Preston small is sod.
- C) Bodie Grim Field: Seeded Yukon Bermudagrass, slowly establishing.
- D) Friendship Field: Sod bare spots with bluegrass, not seeding fast enough.
- E) Rotary Field: End of August the infield will be skinned and the outfield over-seeded with Yukon.
- F) All User Groups have received a copy of the spreadsheet for hours on the fields. John Bentley suggested maybe adding some backstops at some of the neighborhood park areas for practice space.

• **World Series Economic Impact Survey**

- 1) Hand out to daily visitors
- 2) Hand out to weekly pass holders (last day of pool play)
- 3) 4th inning stretch; drawing to win a tee-shirt from Parks
- 4) Brian Wigley has agreed to help with the survey
- 5) Purpose is to measure the economic return of the event

• **Skate Pavilion Site Plan**

With the installation of the jersey barriers, phase 1 and 2 are now complete. Phase 3 site plan has been approved, the concrete platform is estimated to cost \$25,000 and funds will need to be raised.

- **Needs Assessment Survey Questionnaire and Mind Mixer**

Only 113 surveys are back so far. In order to have a statistically valid survey; 10% or 300 surveys need to be returned. Greenplay, LLC will send out postcards in July reminding citizens to fill out their surveys. Kyle Homan inquired on the locations they are being returned from if one location has more returned versus another. Jenny will ask Greenplay, LLC and follow up on the inquiry. They discussed the possibility of doing another press release about the surveys.

- **Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve- Tour and Q and A reception**

- 1) July 24 tour was cancelled due to inclement weather
- 2) The next 2 dates are August 22 and August 30
- 3) Invitations for the tours were hand delivered to every neighbor in the wetlands area
- 4) The management plan team consists of Woody Bousquet, Jim Smith, Sally Anderson, Jim Lawrence, Tim Youmans, Robbie Garrett and Jennifer Jones.

- **Shawnee Springs Healing Trail Update**

- 1) The Tri-State contractor is finished
- 2) The trail is 1/3 mile; a completed improved foot path in the wooded section and working on a foot path in the meadow section
- 3) Entire project is 3 phases:
 - a) Healing trail building
 - b) Archeological dig
 - c) Focus on the springs

- **Winchester Parks and Recreation New Hires**

- 1) Park Project Coordinator: Robbie Garrett
- 2) Maintenance Tech 1: Doug Clowser
- 3) Maintenance Tech 1: Wade Arnold (Part time employee moving to full time position)
- 4) 2 additional Part time Maintenance Tech 1 hires
- 5) Facility Coordinator: Interview process concludes Thursday

- **Frederick Douglass Park Family Day Support**

Jennifer Jones relayed to Kyle Homan, Vivian Walker's appreciation for the support they received from the Kiwanis Club.

They also will receive support for their event from the City with Parks providing staff, bleachers, purchase of the "Frisbee Guy", a pool party, corn-hole boards and Public Works supplying a generator. The event will be held Sunday, August 3, 2014.

- **Jim Barnett Park Preservation**

Jennifer Jones contacted Synthia Waymack of the Department of Conservation and Recreation and sent her all of the department records. She researched the LWCF written documents from that time period. She reported that Land, Water, Conservation Fund that protects park land based on their records the only place in Frederick County or Winchester that has a 6-F (map) requirement that the property can't be sold or used in our area is Sherando Park. Jim Barnett Park used state money and therefore doesn't have the legal requirement to be preserved in perpetuity. It is unclear why a fax was sent from Jerry Cassidy. They double checked the LWCF records more thoroughly and confirmed that this was DCR money and not LWCF. She understands our concern about wanting to preserve the boundaries based on the feedback in stakeholder meetings and focus group interviews. She wanted to help the department have a conversation about avenues available to preserve open space.

1. Virginia Outdoor Foundation – State entity
2. Local land trust
3. DCR- Land Conservation office for easement for park conservation

Jennifer Jones will start working on how to preserve the boundaries of Jim Barnett Park.

- **General**

Jennifer Jones has recruited the assistance of the “Geese Police” to help control an issue with aggressive geese at the Lake and the Visitor’s Center. The “Geese Police” have trained dogs that will deter the geese to find another route. The main problem is the geese are molting and cannot fly during this time.

Jennifer Jones would like to meet once more with each Park Advisory Board member, one- on-one, around the later part of October.

Assistant Director’s Report- Lisa Hamaker

- **World Series 2014**

- 1) Eden Freeman was asked to throw out the first pitch for Opening Ceremonies
- 2) Two weeks away from the start of the event
- 3) 7 of the 10 teams are announced
- 4) Souvenirs are ready
- 5) Details are being finalized
- 6) Have had great support from other departments
- 7) Can use more volunteers

- **Program/Special Events Update**

- 1) The end of summer is approaching and everything has gone well. 70 children from Summer Camp will be taking a trip to the DC Zoo on Tuesday, July 29.
- 2) The Fall 2014 Activity Guide should be out the first week of August.
- 3) A K-9 swim will be coming up on September 1 at 6:00pm; once the pool shuts down to the public, for the season.

Board Comments and Idea Sharing:

Rosie Schiavone thanked Jenny and Shelly for helping with the Liberty 5K and announced that over the course of years, the event has been held; \$27,000 has been donated to the Park.

Jules Bacha announced that Lisa Hamaker was a speaker at the Lions Club luncheon recently and provided a nice presentation.

John Bentley expressed that there was a lot going on with Parks and Recreation and it was all very exciting.

Advisory Board Meeting Dates:

Advisory Board Meeting: Monday, August 25, 2014 @ 6:30pm

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss John Bentley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Kyle Homan made the motion and it was seconded by Shelly Lee. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully submitted; Jennifer Stotler; Park Administrative Coordinator