

Winchester Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, August 25, 2014
6:30pm

Meeting Location: Lord Fairfax Room, War Memorial Building

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

Absent: None

City Staff: Jennifer Jones, Lisa Hamaker

Media: None

Guests: Christy Burke

John Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Approval of July 2014 Minutes:

A motion was made by Matt Mintschenko to approve the July 28, 2014, minutes as presented; Jules Bacha seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comments:

Christy Burke addressed the Park Advisory Board about the concerns she has with the Dog Park. The water dish area stays muddy and constantly wet. Water is sitting on all four side of the area and Dog Park patrons have actually placed chairs over the area and brought gravel in to help dry the area. She was asking the Board for help with the issue to find a plan to fix the water and also to bring back the seating in the area. Jennifer Jones will research the issue and respond to her within (2) days.

Chairman Comments: John Bentley

No comments.

Director's Report: Jennifer Jones

• **Celebrate Patsy Cline**

The concert is set for Saturday, August 30 at Bridgeforth Field Stadium. Jimmy Fortune and Rivers Edge will perform.

• **Geese Police and Media**

With the services of Geese Police, a flock of geese at the lake have thinned out but they have migrated to other areas in the park. The policing was only for 2 weeks and the price was \$1,000. The Geese Police efforts received a lot of media attention.

• **War Memorial Building Upgrades**

Annual maintenance and several upgrades took place recently at the War Memorial Building. They consisted of refinishing the Gym and Racquetball Court floors, waxing the lobby and some of the meeting rooms floors and the annual cleaning of the Indoor Pool (the filtration system was repaired and the pool was closed 3 days longer than anticipated).

• **Individual Park Board Members Meetings**

Jennifer Jones handed out a sign-up sheet so Park Advisory Board members could schedule a meeting with her.

• **Athletic Fields Turf Grass Update**

- 1) Yost Field: The field is closed for (3) weeks now that the World Series has finished. This allows time for the field to rest.

- 2) Rotary Field: The infield was skinned and will be completed by Friday, August 29.
- 3) Friendship Field: Bluegrass sod will be installed on the bare spots and installation will start next week.
- 4) Bridgeforth Field: The field will be graded and bluegrass sod will be placed back to the areas covering the irrigation heads and back to first and third base line, plus (6) inches. The sound system, from Yost Field will be moved to Bridgeforth and the new scoreboard will be installed soon.
- 5) Whittier Field: Deep tine process will start in October.

Jennifer Jones commented the department goal is to have continuous Turfgrass fields by May 2015 and within (3) years to have the best fields in Virginia.

- **World Series Economic Impact Survey**

During the World Series event 137 surveys were collected. A graduate assistant from Brian Wigley's SU Sports Management class will input the data and write the report.

- **Skate Pavilion Issues and Fence**

- 1) The guttering system has been vandalized
- 2) Jennifer Jones has met with the Police Chief and several officers
- 3) Helmets are not being worn
- 4) Lapse salaries money ran out June 30th, so no staffing is done on a regular basis
- 5) Some of the skaters are disrespectful and confrontational
- 6) Everyone without helmets would have a (2) week notice and then be trespassed
- 7) Shelly Lee suggested if the concession area and or skate shop were to be opened that may help in supervising the pavilion
- 8) Kyle Homan has noticed more bikes using the facility since the new equipment was installed
- 9) A fence contractor has been contacted to install fencing around the Skate Pavilion; fence will encompass everything, except behind the jersey barriers where the picnic tables and restrooms are.
- 10) Skate Pavilion hours will be controlled once the fence is in place
- 11) Jennifer Jones will contact Harrisonburg to see if they have a monitor since they have a fenced in area
- 12) General comments from the Park Advisory Board consisted of policy enforcements, monitoring, closing the facility, policing helmets, paying to skate and security. John Bentley asked that a timeline be placed on the facility and it be discussed and re-evaluated once the fence was in place.

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

180 surveys or 6% has been returned. 300 surveys are required for a statistically valid survey. The survey will be placed online but will not be included as statistically valid. Jennifer Jones will find out what type of timeline Greenplay, LLC has for the return of surveys.

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

- 1) Two tour dates have been postponed due to inclement weather
- 2) The upcoming tour is Saturday, August 30
- 3) Thursday, September 25 has been added as a tour date

- **Shawnee Springs Healing Trail Update**

- 1) Gravel trail is 75% complete
- 2) The Civil War Hospital 150th Anniversary Celebration date has been changed to Saturday, October 25 from noon to 4pm
- 3) Jules Bacha was asked if he would like to serve on an event committee for the annual Civil War Hospital Celebration event.

- **McCormac Amphitheatre Feasibility Study**

Jennifer Jones will give a presentation on Thursday, August 28 at 6pm to the Shenandoah University students that will be doing a feasibility study on the McCormac Amphitheatre as part of their MBA Class Capstone Project.

- **Jim Barnett Park Preservation**

Jennifer Jones relayed to the Park Advisory Board that basically from the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, a State agency to create open space there are two options for land preservation:

- 1) Give the land to an independent organization such as the Park Foundation. This is not an option for Jim Barnett Park.
- 2) Have City Council draft a resolution to preserve the boundaries of Jim Barnett Park.

Shelly Lee made a motion asking Jennifer Jones, Park Director, to prepare a resolution to preserve the boundaries of Jim Barnett Park; seconded by Matt Mintschencko, the vote in favor was 7-0.

Kyle Homan will also be helping with the preservation process.

- **General**

- **Parking at Wilkins Lake**

Some parking issues have come up at the parking lot by Wilkins Lake and the courts. Students from SU have been utilizing the parking spaces that are designed for Park patrons. The department will try flyers and once again this year to ask for some coordination from the Police Department. Lisa Hamaker relayed that this issue has presented itself before, in that area and enforcement with signs, flyers on cars, time limits and ticketing cars were put in place.

- **Larger User Group Events**

Jennifer Jones expressed to the Park Advisory Board that the department wants to help support all User Groups of the Park if they want to host a large event and she will do this by setting up an event cycle so all groups are supported if they choose to hold a large event.

- **Assistant Director's Report- Lisa Hamaker**

- **2014 World Series President Summary**

- 1) The event went well and she hopes to have some of the numbers at the next meeting
- 2) Minimal complaints
- 3) 10 teams participated in the Series
- 4) Most teams surveyed felt Winchester was very welcoming
- 5) Some families have commented they will return to Winchester
- 6) The Winchester Team did very well in the Series
- 7) The Parks and Rec department had a lot of support from other City departments

- **Recreation Program Guide and Distribution**

- 1) The guide has been mailed out and will be distributed to businesses by staff
- 2) Flyers have been taken to the schools
- 3) Staff is currently working on the Winter Guide information
- 4) Starting August 25, the facility hours will be on the normal Fall/Winter schedule

- **Pool Wrap- Up**

- 1) The final season weekend is August 30-Labor Day, September 1, 2014
- 2) The season will finish with a K-9 swim being offered once the pool closes at 6pm on Labor Day

- **Facility Coordinator**

The Parks and Rec department has hired a new Facilities Coordinator, Erika Phillips. Her first day is Monday, August 25, 2014. Erika is originally from North Carolina and brings a lot to the department including communication within the Hispanic Community.

Board Comments and Idea Sharing:

John Bentley commented to take back and keep the Park. The comment was echoed by Jules Bacha and Shelly Lee.

Advisory Board Meeting Dates:

Advisory Board Meeting: Monday, September 22, 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 Jules Bacha. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted; Jennifer Stotler; Park Administrative Coordinator