

Winchester Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, October 27, 2014
6:30pm

Meeting Location: Lord Fairfax Room, War Memorial Building

Present: John Bentley (Chairman), Shelly Lee (Vice-Chairman), Jules Bacha, Rosie Schiavone, Matt Mintschenko, Brian Wigley, Hector Robertson and Trae Vickers.

Absent: Kyle Homan

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

Media: Derek Gomes

Guests: Harold Hawks and SU Students, John Wilt and Brandon Corbin

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

Approval of September 2014 Minutes:

A motion was made by Matt Mintschenko to approve the September 22, 2014, minutes as presented; Brian Wigley seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Public Comments: Harold Hawks

Mr. Hawks addressed the Park Advisory Board about his concerns of the evening swim schedule changes recently implemented. Mr. Hawks lives near the park and has utilized the facility for 15 years to swim. During this time he has seen the adult evening swim schedule change many times. The most recent change limits the adult working population the ability to come for an evening swim. Currently; with the change, Tuesday and Thursday evening adult lap swim time is now being offered at 7:30pm to provide more pool time for children's swim lessons. Mr. Hawks asked if Park staff and the Park Advisory Board would consider returning the 5:30-7:00pm schedule and open at least one lane for the adult swimmers.

Discussion between staff and Park Advisory Board members revealed that the department has a safety issue with adults and children in the water at the same time, 15 hours of lap swimming were added to the schedule when it was changed, the schedule is trying to accommodate all ages, the facility needs to be enlarged, that the new schedule was not unreasonable and the Park Advisory Board had voted unanimously on the change to allow youth to swim earlier in the day.

Skate Pavilion Hours and Policy

Jennifer Jones reviewed the issues surrounding the use of the Skate Pavilion including the helmet enforcement efforts, staffing requirements and erecting a fence around the facility. She provided a handout of operational hours and policies and asked the Park Advisory Board for their support. The proposed hours would be Monday- Friday from 3:00pm to dusk, Saturday and Sunday from noon to dusk. The new policies would be riders must have helmets and display the WPRD stickers to enter the facility and bike riders would only be allowed use of the facility on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Bike riders change the entire dynamics at the Pavilion so limiting their use helps with safety issues. Matt Mintschenko suggested locking the facility for 24 hours when the rules are not being obeyed. Shelly Lee commented it was a great option.

Brian Wigley made a motion to accept the operational hours and policies at the Skate Pavilion as it has been submitted; Jules Bacha seconded the motion the motion was approved on a 5-1 vote, with Matt Mintschenko voting no.

Update on South Entrance of Jim Barnett Park

The parking signs are in place and seem to be effective. Eden Freeman will present to City Council the request for Jennifer Jones to use \$10,000 of Park CIP money so the department can install (2) speed tables on the south end of the park to slow down traffic. Jennifer Jones is working with Police Chief Sazenbacher to deputize or certify some of the park staff. Eden Freeman will get pricing on certifications for "Peace Officers".

As far as the Jim Barnett Park welcome sign placement, Jennifer Jones will have staff mark both proposed locations and the Park Advisory Board can comment, via e-mail which location they prefer.

Chairman Comments: John Bentley

Park Advisory Board Combined Holiday Meeting Date Change:

Rosie Schaivone made a motion to accept the Park Advisory Board monthly combined meeting date for November and December on December 8, 2014; the motion was seconded by Jules Bacha and unanimously approved.

South End of the Park

John Bentley spoke about the formulation of a small committee including City Staff and Shenandoah University to ensure good communications concerning the safety in the south end of the park.

Director's Report: Jennifer Jones

• Athletic Fields Turf Grass Update

The final sod project (Preston Field) has been completed. All promises to the User Groups of the Park fields were fulfilled. Parks and Recreation along with the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Tech will host an Athletic Turf and Field Maintenance Workshop on Friday, November 7, 2014 at the War Memorial Building in Jim Barnett Park.

• Neighborhood Playground Resilient Surfacing Project

Most of the neighborhood playgrounds recently received complete resilient surfacing renovations. The areas were demoed and replaced with 12" of engineered wood fiber that will compact to 9". Staff has been working to address safety issues at all of the playgrounds.

• New Wilkins Lake Fountain Delivered

The Wilkins Foundation donated a new fountain for Wilkins Lake. The fountain will be installed soon.

• World Series Economic Impact Survey

The final report from the World Series event held in August was presented to the Park Advisory Board. The report highlighted volunteer hours, overall expenses including those spent locally, a labor review and staffing modification along with an Economic Impact Survey provided by Brian Wigley who told the Park Advisory Board and staff that 136 surveys were returned and 79 were usable surveys and a 2.3% multiplier was used to determine the economic impact. Having variable factors from the 2011 and the 2014 events the data provided proved the event had a successful economic impact on the City of Winchester.

- **Needs Assessment Modified Timeline**

Hoping for more input from the minority population in the area the Needs Assessment timeline has been pushed back one month. Some efforts to obtain input are postcards handed out in the North End, boosted posts and open links all with an October 31, 2014 deadline. The wrap up meeting should be held in December with Green Play, LLC and then they will provide a presentation to City Council.

- **Abrams Creek Wetlands Preserve Marsh Restoration Project**

Park Staff have been working in the lower marsh area and will move to the Meadow Branch Marsh area next. Estimates are being obtained for trees of 3" diameter or more that have to be removed. An article about the restoration project will be published on Wednesday, October 29, 2014 in the Winchester Star.

- **Shawnee Springs Trail Phase 1- 80% Complete**

The gravel trail is complete, the signs have been installed and the swing structure has arrived and in approximately (2) weeks the swings will arrive. The Yoga mound will be installed next week.

- **Jim Barnett Park Preservation**

Tabled

- **McCormac Amphitheatre Feasibility Study**

The SU students providing the study are waiting on the second set of raw data from the Needs Assessment. A November 5th deadline has been set for Green Play, LLC to provide the data. A presentation is being planned for December. According to the data collected so far from the Needs Assessment the Amphitheatre is the #1 need for capital improvement across random surveys and open link responses.

- **Bridgeforth Field Renovations Complete**

The ADA renovation project has been completed. The field has been re-graded and new sod extended to cover irrigation. A new sound system was installed and the new scoreboard will be installed by the end of the week.

- **General Comments**

About 2 years ago; at Frederick Douglass Park, the deteriorating playground had to be removed. Since then new equipment has been requested in the Parks Fiscal Year Budgeting process but it has not been funded. The City Manager is working with the Economic Development Interim to see if approximately \$40,000 of CBDG funds can be used for the project. A recommendation will go before City Council to request the use of the funds.

Assistant Director's Report- Lisa Hamaker

- **Programs-**

- 1) 120 children are participating in the children's swim lessons program; approximately 57 have enrolled for the next set of lessons due to start next week.
- 2) Community Recreation Program enrollments are increasing especially cooking classes.
- 3) The Hive enrollment numbers are still high.

- **Facilities-**

Fall Cleaning is taking place and some items were auctioned as a result. Shower dividers for the lockers rooms have been ordered and the locker rooms are being painted. Lights and ballasts are being repaired. New carpeting in the Library and the Rec Room was installed by staff.

- **Special Events-**

- 1) Pumpkins in the Pool- 16 in attendance for the 1st year
- 2) Ghouls and Gals Middle School Dance- 150 attended
- 3) Green Circle 5K- number of runners were down this year
- 4) Nationals Bus Trip- went well

- **Upcoming Events-**

- 1) Evening in Neverland
- 2) Little Turkey Treats
- 3) Santa letters
- 4) Christmas Parade, 1st Monday in December

Board Comments and Idea Sharing:

None

Advisory Board Meeting Dates:

Advisory Board Meeting: Monday, December 8, 2014 @ 6:30pm

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss John Bentley asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting; Brian Wigley made the motion and it was seconded by Matt Mintschenko. The motion was approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted; Jennifer Stotler; Park Administrative Coordinator