

**Winchester Parks & Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, October 28, 2019
War Memorial Building – Social Hall
6:30 PM**

1. Welcome & Call to Order – President Bill Stewart

- a. Bill asked for a motion to amend the October 28, 2019 Regular Meeting Agenda to add a closed session between items 9 and 10 for the purpose of convening in closed session to discuss the Memorandum of Agreement and the Operational Addendum relating to the proposal by Shenandoah University.

RESULT: UNANIMOUS

MOVER: Shelly Lee

SECONDER: Casey Stine

AYES: Mike Miller, Shelly Lee, Bill Stewart, Casey Stine, Regina Coates, Hector Robertson, Andy Gail

ABSENT: Cal Allen

2. Attendance Roll Call

- a. **Present:** Bill Stewart (President), Shelly Lee (Vice-President), Mike Miller, Casey Stine, Hector Robertson, Regina Coates, and Andy Gail
- b. **Absent:** Cal Allen
- c. **City Staff:** Eden Freeman, Lynn Miller, Matt Little, and Samantha Crisman

3. Approval Minutes – August 26, 2019 & September 23, 2019

- a. **August Minutes:** A motion to approve the August 26th minutes was made by Andy Gail and seconded by Shelly Lee, all were in favor; the minutes were approved.
- b. **September Minutes:** A motion to approve the September 23rd minutes was made by Casey Stine and seconded by Regina Coates, all were in favor; the minutes were approved.

4. Introductions & Presentations: None

5. Public Comments General

5.1 Shenandoah University Proposal

Reed Prosser – Thank you Mr. Stewart. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you. Shenandoah University's proposal to partner with the City of Winchester and Parks and Recreation Department is interesting. It offers opportunity and vision for SU, the City, Winchester Baseball and the Royals. It also offers potential for Handley High School and Winchester Public Schools. Our purpose is a little unique in that our focus is solely on the children of Winchester. We want simply to provide the greatest opportunity for our kids. That opportunity may come on Bridgeforth, may come on Henkel Harris, or on Bodie Grim. Our kids deserve to play in a first-class facility that our residents can be proud of, a facility that our athletes can be proud of, basically a home. I've grown up in Winchester and more importantly have grown up in the park. I spent my youth following my dad around playing softball and basketball, I played little league for Big Pepper Martin and Butch Jones and Jimmy Dix. I've worked in the Maintenance Department for Jim Barnett, for Denny Lee, and Jim Smith while in high school and in college. The park is near and dear to my heart. Lots of people will decide what is best for the partners involved, however this will always remain true, John Handley High School is proud to partner with Winchester Parks and Rec. We have and always will focus on what is best for the children of Winchester. Our purpose is the provide for them. This project has tremendous potential, however at the end of the day I think it is important for us to make sure

that we are benefitting the children of Winchester. I think it is important for us to give our kids the home they deserve. Thank you.

Jaclin Hott – I came as a parent. I am a parent of baseball players. I'm a citizen of Winchester. I'm a native of Winchester and Frederick County and I'm also a staff person as Shenandoah University so I love the idea of the partnership between all the entities involved. We also hosted a Royal one year so we are really invested in what goes on at the park and like Reed said being able to have a location that allows so many young people and their families to get together to watch a sport that is just a wonderful sport and a great opportunity and I look forward to the day when we drive by the park and see lots of people using the fields in a variety of different ways and I think the opportunity that Shenandoah is giving the city is wonderful and they continue to support all that we are doing as we support them so I think as a parent and a citizen I think it's a great idea. Thank you.

Mitch Moore – I will defer until later. I think mostly everybody knows what Shenandoah University's stance is. We just want to make sure that everybody understands we are trying to make sure that this is a win-win-win situation for all the partners involved. Thank you.

Mike Wilkerson – Thank you Mr. Stewart and the Board for giving everybody the chance to speak tonight. I've shared comments with you before, some stuff in writing, and we have comments on our Facebook page if anyone would like to visit those. I will stick within the three minutes and not go through all of those. There are about four or five points I'd like to make. Point number one is the relationship we have had with Parks and Rec for over 60 years and how we've provided somewhere around 3-400 kids a year in that program and that's been a great partnership and I know I mentioned that in what I provided earlier that I think it's a best in class partnership in the community for all involved. Number 2 is Shenandoah University is our friend, always has been, always will be. We have collaborated in the past and we certainly intend to collaborate with them moving forward. Number three is we do not oppose this project even to include the potential changes that have been suggested be made to Rotary field which was originally built for little kids. We have subsequently had conversations with Kevin Anderson and if what we have talked about in concept could become a reality that field could possibly be used for all stakeholders involved here. That questions then becomes the access of the fields, who controls those fields especially when you're looking at a 40-year contract. My recommendation to the Board would be that they consider independent MOUs that could conflict with any new MOU that would be created. This is all about the devil being in the details. We would love to see facilities like SU is proposing, we would love to partner with them, but the children that play through our league and then move on to high school to play at Handley, the reason they've been able to do that is through the sufficient number of fields and access to those fields so that would be important. Thank you.

Patrick Wingfield – I'll be very brief. I think a lot of what's been talked about is great. I coached at Shenandoah for four or five years and coach Handley now for the Varsity team. I think like a lot have said the proposal and some of the ideas being put forth are all good ideas and they all can have that potential to be that win for everybody. I think as long as those ideas and what the details mean and where it goes from here and who controls it, to know that there are a limited amount of fields. When I was growing up there were four baseball fields and now if it becomes where one field is for one team, I think that limits a lot of things. So, I think in past we have worked well together and, in the future, I think we will work well together, but I think those kinds of details of how things get scheduled and things go out there really helps to perfect and have this win for everybody. Thanks for letting us speak and I think the proposal itself on paper, the potential is real good and I look forward to seeing what other people have to say. Thank you.

Kevin Anderson – I grew up on Yost Field. I grew up over on Kiwanis field which is now Bridgeforth and there used to be a pond or a lake and from there I went to Henkel Harris and from there I went to Bridgeforth and I think Patrick Wingfield, myself, and Reed, we grew up in this park, it's unbelievable. I would never endorse or put my name on something that did not enhance Winchester Baseball. I have two sons that went through that program. One went through five years of rec ball. Another one went through the rec ball

into travel ball. Never ever would I do something to hinder them. Winchester Royals are a second family. I managed them two years, or rather I coached them two, managed for five. The cooperation Reed Prosser has brought from Handley has been unbelievable. He and I have already exchanged schedules and worked out conflicts. The cooperation of the four user groups and the possibilities for turfing Bridgeforth and turfing Rotary and making it a regional and national class facility? Yes, I am passionate, I get excited. It can only enhance all the user groups and the park and while I am here, I want to thank Tommy Lambert right back there who I work with on a daily basis for all of his hard work and his staff's hard work. Thank you very much.

Courtney Moyer – I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Head Softball Coach at Shenandoah. I'm lucky to represent these incredible young women. [Inaudible] As a program, as a university, and as a family we are very excited about this path this program is going in. Thank you.

Jim Stutzman – Good evening. Thank you to you all for giving us the opportunity to give you some input this evening. Full transparency, I did not grow up in Winchester. I did not grow up in Jim Barnett Park. I did not play ball here and I am a trustee of the University. I think it's only fair that everybody is aware of that as we have these conversations. What I would like to say is I've been a part of this community for almost 30 years and ever since we came here, we have taken an active role to really try and be good community partners. So, whether I'm sitting on the Board of the University or any one of the dozens of other boards I've participated in, I always try to look for opportunities of win-win situations. We have a need as the University for facilities. I think Handley Baseball has a need for facilities. I think Winchester Little League has a need for facilities and I think the Parks and Rec Department has an incredible need to improve the facilities for all of their partners. I see this as an opportunity for a win-win solution for all users and I think what the University is proposing certainly provides the resources and our commitment to try and make that happen. I am confident your leadership, staff and leadership at Parks and Rec, our University leadership, Reed and his team at Handley as Kevin and he have already spoken. These issues are not that hard to work out as far distributing use of the facilities once we have them. The other thing that I would like to say that I know is a concern for so many people is the legacy of the families and organizations and donors that made the facilities that we have possible and as I'm concerned if I'm involved with it, we are always going to consider that legacy. We're not doing our due diligence if we didn't look for other opportunities to continue to raise funding and continue to find opportunities, but those legacies will always be a part of the fields and the park of this Parks and Rec no matter what change the University does. Thank you so much for your time and I am confident we will all find a way we can all work together to make this a win for Winchester. Thank you.

Todd Miller – I'm glad to see everyone here tonight. I'm very excited about the proposal. I'm coming from a different aspect. My first year working with Winchester Parks and Rec was 1984, I did minor league t-ball on Yost Field, I have been a coach and I went through Winchester Baseball and everyone who has spoken so far has done an excellent job and I just wanted to say what a great opportunity we have right now and I want to make sure all entities are represented and that no one gets left out. Thank you.

Renoula Griffin – My name is Renoula. I am a 2011 graduate of Shenandoah University and I was a player on the Shenandoah Softball team from 2007-2011 and it was the best four years of my life and it had to do with the partnership that Shenandoah had with the park for those years and I wouldn't trade one of those days for anything. I am now resident of Winchester because of the relationship and the love I have for this university and this town. I have now picked up and moved hours away from my family and where I grew up to make this my home. Now my dream is going to be to have my children grow up in this town because I have fallen in love with it and the idea of having this partnership turn the park into something even better and greater for the kids to really enjoy and have that experience a lot of young kids want to have is playing on great facilities and having stands and people would fill those stands. It would be an honor, I would love to see that happen any way I could support it. I'll be here. Thank you for the opportunity.

Harry and Debbie Smith –

Debbie – I'm from the City of Winchester and have spent my life at the park. I started working at the park when I was 13 years old in the concession stand. I worked for Jim Barnett. I have had a positive experience. Of course, I wasn't allowed to play baseball and they didn't have softball at the time, but I grew up here in this park and I think the facilities could only be enhanced with the relationship with Shenandoah University. The idea that they could hold state baseball and softball at some time in the city of Winchester, we have never been able to do that. So, facilities being improved can only enhance everybody that can use the park. Thank you.

Harry – My only comment would be I think it is a wonderful opportunity. My good friend, Mike Wilkerson said it, certainly the devil is in the details. I think with god people with a great opportunity getting together and working through this I think we'll see some excellent results. Thank you.

Donna Turrill – I'm Donna Turrill. I'm the President of the Winchester Royals and I want to talk about the health of the fields after four months of having two teams play in Bridgeforth Stadium and by the time out team gets there at the end of May for June and July it's in need of some TLC sometimes and that's nothing against what Tommy does and the maintenance people at the park, they do a great job it's just very well used and so I think definitely a turf field would be beneficial because the field is used so much and I think that it's been very nice having all the communication between SU and Parks and Rec. We've had a great relationship with parks and rec. Most of our interactions with SU have been through email and that has changed since this has started so I'm confident that moving forward if the project is approved that all parties will work together. Thank you.

6. President's Report: Bill thanked the speakers and all the guests for being at the meeting and had no report otherwise.

7. Board Member Comments: None

8. Projects & Programs Committee Report

8.1 Naming Recommendation Pocket Park – E. Cecil & S. Kent Street:

P&P recommending Ruth Jackson Memorial Park, recommend holding until we have approval from the family, tabled until December

9. City Manager's Comments: None

9.5 – MOTION TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION – I move to recess into a closed meeting for the discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, and if made public, the discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the City and the financial interest of the City would be adversely affected as authorized by section 2.2-3711(A)(6) of the state code. The subject matter of the meeting is an agreement with Shenandoah University relating to improvements at Bridgeforth and other fields.

RESULT: UNANIMOUS

MOVER: Shelly Lee

SECONDER: Casey Stine

AYES: Mike Miller, Shelly Lee, Bill Stewart, Casey Stine, Regina Coates, Hector Robertson, Andy Gail

ABSENT: Cal Allen

MOTION TO CONCLUDE CLOSED SESSION – With respect to the just-concluded closed session, and to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under The Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Board.

RESULT: UNANIMOUS

MOVER: Shelly Lee

SECONDER: Casey Stine

AYES: Mike Miller, Shelly Lee, Bill Stewart, Casey Stine, Regina Coates, Hector Robertson, Andy Gail

ABSENT: Cal Allen

10. Shenandoah University Proposal

- a. Shelly thanked SU, Parks and Rec staff, and the Advisory Board for trying to communicate on this project. It could be win-win situation. She hopes we will keep the lines of communication open and wants it to remain where everyone loves to come to the park. Partnership is the big thing. We have to remember how much everyone has done for the community like the Bridgforth’s. She appreciates SU’s proposal and stated with communication this could be a really good thing.

11. Director’s Report

11.1 Veteran’s Day Blood Drive

November 8th 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM, War Memorial Building, last year was the most successful in the area

11.2 Veteran’s Day Holiday Observance –November 11th Building Open

11.3 Aquatics

Indoor Aquatics Center

Swim Lessons – Registration - Group and Private registration numbers

Outdoor Aquatics Center

Winter Maintenance Items

Main Drain, Return Line, Entrance Step

11.4 Maintenance

Establishing Fall/Winter Projects List

Lions Club Sensory Trail – Sign Delivery November 1st

Maintenance Facility – Update

11.5 Facilities

Seasonal Projects Under Review

11.6 Staff Status

Front Desk Staff

Seasonal Life Guard Positions

Part-time Custodial

11.7 Cellular Facility – Update, under construction

12. Assistant Director's Report

12.1 Winter/Spring Guide - first week of distributed of December

12.2 Abrams Wetlands

Staff Conducted Heavy Cutting, went well

Volunteers Lighter Cutting – October 11th & 12th

12.3 Park Clean Up Day

Saturday, October 19th Update – Thanks Shelly & Cal

12.4 Athletics

Jr. & Sr. Basketball & Cheerleading – November 4th /5th

Thankful for Volleyball – November 24th

12.5 Child Care

Ghouls & Gals 0 October 19th

Little Turkeys – November 21st

12.6 Community Recreation

Upcoming Trips – PA Christmas & Gift Show - December 6th

New York City – December 14th

12.7 Special Events

Drive-In Movie – October 4th – Movie – *Cars 3*

Old Town Halloween – Halloween Movie October 26th 7:00 PM

Holiday Events

Christmas Parade – Applications

Santa Letters – Mailboxes Out Soon

12.8 Community Outreach

Worlds of Work Expo (WOW) – September 27th

Newcomers Event – October 3rd Visitors Center

For the Health of It – Handley Library – October 21st

For the Health of It – Bowman Library – October 29th

13. Additional Items - None

14. Next Regular Meeting

Monday, December 16, 2019

Jim Barnett Park – War Memorial Building – Lord Fairfax Room

6:30 PM

15. Closing Comments – Board Members

Bill emphasized community involvement. He thanked Shelly and Cal for being at the park clean-up day.

16. Adjourn- With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Andy Gail, seconded by Regina Coates and approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.