

Winchester Parks and Recreation  
Park Advisory Board Meeting  
Monday, June 25th, 2018  
6:30pm

6:30 pm- Lord Fairfax Room, War Memorial Building

**Present:** John Bentley (Chairman), Shelly Lee (Vice-Chairman), Cal Allen, Michael Miller, Bill Stewart, Hector Robertson, Regina Coates, Andy Gail

**Absent:** Michael Miller, Casey Stine

**City Staff:** Eden Freeman, Lynn Miller, Matt Little, and Samantha Crisman

**Media:** Winchester Star

**Guests:** Vivian and Terry Walker

**May 25th, 2018 Minutes Approval-**

Cal Allen made a motion to approve the May 25<sup>th</sup> minutes. Regina Coates seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Public Comments-**

**Frederick Douglass Fun Days – Ms. Walker**

Vivian Walker with the Family Day committee with Frederick Douglass Park attended to speak to the board about the upcoming weekend. Family Day is held at Frederick Douglass Park, it started in 1972 (a little over 50 years ago) and she joined the group 10-15 years ago. The goal of the event is to promote community unity, connect residents of the North End with different agencies which provide services to the community. There is a basketball tournament, children's activities, resource fair, Saturday there is a gospel concert from local area. The weekend before there will be a pool party for the community, free or very minimal cost for the community. The event has a small board and many volunteers and greatly appreciates the donation/help and resources provided by park. We could not do it without you. Non-profits come to support such as Valley health, Lions club sight and sound mobile. We serve the ENTIRE community and last year saw great attendance. We had free lunches, free bike helmets and did a book bag distribution last year (100) and the goal is 200 for this year.

Questions: John Bentley what do you need from the park this year? Ms. Walker said \$2,000 is awesome, it provides trash bags and boxes, cones for parking, etc.

Regina Coates asked if insurance straightened out from last year? Ms. Walker said yes, but it is expensive.

Lynn Miller stated we have this money in the budget for the \$2,000 donation. Shelly Lee commented that it is a wonderful event and we commend you for keeping it going all these years. Lynn Miller commented it has become a homecoming of sorts as well.

The Board decided to donate the \$2,000 again this year.

**Chairman's Report-** John Bentley started by stating that with the cell tower, things that have been on his mind. He thanked Lynn and staff for running the park as well as it has been the last three years. He stated he desired more transparency: to let everyone know no matter how the vote goes, the cell tower would go to the city council out of duty. He disliked the comments of Vice-President Wiley and feels like he is questioning what are we doing, that no one is required to take our advice. He wants the board to feel like it means something, but that the role seems to have been diminished. He has decided to resign from the board (will stay on until a replacement is found). Mr. Bentley would like to raise money instead for the park, and to feel that his time is useful.

Hector Robertson remarked he remembers when the park was big, that it is not a place for a cell tower. He thinks about the kids and their safety.

Eden Freeman stated is not a done deal. Many approvals still have to happen along the way.

Shelly Lee believes it's not a recreational thing, that it doesn't belong here. She has heard from the public that it does not want this cell tower. The money isn't coming back to the park.

Eden said in response to this that the planning commission is a great place for the advisory board to speak their minds and voices. She commended Cal and Bill for going to the meetings and preparing the agreement.

Regina stated she wants more information on what we are supposed to be doing as the Advisory Board.

**City Manager Comments-** Budget has been adopted, council authorized the compensation study implementation. We have been working on getting the maintenance shop out for bid

**Projects and Programs Committee-** None

**Park Director's Report –**

**FY18 Park Projects Update-**

- 1) **Sensory Trail, Host Lions Club** – postponed because of poor weather
- 2) **Outdoor Pool** – contractors were here today to check on the pump, pool is operational
- 3) **Storm Damages** – we had damages in excess of \$95,000. A claim has been filed with the insurance adjuster.

**Abrams Creek Wetlands** – We will see those this evening, a lot of work has been done to clear invasive species

**Maintenance Facility** – meeting with Eden regarding the progress in weeks to come

**Summer Camp/Child Care** – All weeks are full with roughly 20 on the waiting list.

**Personnel Update- Full time & Part Time**

- 1) **Child Care Assistant** – Summer staff position filled
- 2) **Aquatics** – looking for summer lifeguards
- 3) **Aquatics Specialist Resigned** – Effective July 1, 2018
- 4) **Desk Staff** – vacancies filled

**FY-2019 Budget Preparation** – Approved, meeting with Finance next week to discuss

**Proposed Shentel Telecommunications Facility –**

City Council Regular Meeting - Tuesday, June 12, 2018 @ 6:00 PM – Approved Resolution to Authorize City Manager to sign the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Application as Owner of Property. It should be noted this is only an application for the CUP, there are many other steps prior to any Council action.

**Assistant Park Director's Report**

- Activity Guide
  - o Fall guide has begun; working towards first draft end of June
    - Distribution date = August 10/11
- Programs & Events
  - o Athletics
    - Summer sports camps
      - Volleyball (week of June 11) – 32 kids
      - Basketball (week of June 18) – 40 kids
      - Boys Sports (week of June 25) – 46 kids
      - Girls Sports (week of June 25) – 44 kids
      - Spots still available

- Golf (week of July 2) / Tennis (week of July 9)
  - Football (week of July 16) / Soccer (week of July 23)
- 2 Nationals trips
  - June 19 vs. Orioles; 22
  - August 18 vs. Marlins; 9 as of today
- Swinging Fore Sports – rescheduled for Friday, July 27 @ Winchester Country Club
  - Still accepting volunteers & players
  - Thank you to Summit Bank! Title Sponsor
- Aquatics
  - Winchester Swim Team Long Course Meet – June 22-24; went well despite the rain
  - Christmas in July – July 25, noon-3pm
- Community Rec
  - Private Music Lessons
    - Piano recital – June 8; 7 students & 8 family members
  - Ballet is back and going well
- HIVE
  - Summer camp
    - Full with waiting list each week
- Special Events
  - Movies on the Mall – collaboration with Old Town
    - Going well in new location
  - June 30 – volunteer/instructor appreciation pool party – 7-9pm
  - Liberty 5k & Kids Mile – July 4 at 8am
- Dog Park Membership
  - 153 members as of 6/25/18
- Park Sign Contest
  - Advertising on social media, flyers, radio interviews
  - Deadline to submit July 2; Size between 8.5 x 11 & 11 x 17
  - On the website for review; <https://www.winchesterva.gov/sites/default/files/documents/parks/sign-contest-application.pdf>

**Additional –**

**Trolley Trip** - Members of the Board got on the Trolley and visited Weaver Park, Cedarmeade Green Space, Rolling Hills, Harvest Ridge Park, Park Place, and Abrams Creek Wetlands. They received information regarding what activities are held there and what maintenance is done at each park.

**Board Comments/Idea Sharing:**

- John Bentley asked about the Park Identification sign contest, Matt Little gave more information about the contest and the applications received

**Next Monthly Park Advisory Board Meeting:** Monday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 @ 6:30pm.

**Adjournment-** With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Regina Coates, seconded by Cal Allen and approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Samantha Crisman; Secretary to the Park Advisory Board