

Winchester Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, July 22, 2013
6:30pm

Meeting Location: Social Hall

Present: Krista Farris (Chair), Jules Bacha, John Elliott, Rosie Schiavone, Brian Wigley

Absent: John Bentley (Vice-Chair), Kyle Homan, Matt Mintschenko, Shelly Lee

City Staff: Lisa Hamaker (Interim Director), Thomas Jones (Facility Coordinator), Dale Iman (City Manager)

Council: Milt McInturff

Media: Vic Bradshaw, Winchester Star

Guests: Chris Way, Martha Roberson, Lynn Esslinger, Tag Grove, Kim Grove

Krista Farris called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Approval of June 24, 2013 Minutes:

A motion was made by Jules Bacha to approve the June 24 minutes as presented, John Elliott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comments: Topic: Hours of Operation

Mr. Way spoke to the Advisory Board that the delayed opening of the War Memorial Building would cause the Adult Lap Swim to be pushed back therefore some participants would have to drop out. He asked for reconsideration to the change.

Ms. Roberson stated there is a dedicated group of early morning swimmers during the opening hour and the proposed time change would cause a loss of memberships and revenues.

Ms. Esslinger is a regular 5:30am swimmer and stated a loyal group of approximately 10 swimmers attend during this time. She stated the \$3,000.00 savings is a small amount in a rather large budget and felt revenues would be lost.

Mr. Grove handed out a High School Swim practice draft proposing a schedule that increases practice time from 45minutes to 1 hour with the last practice ending at 9pm instead of 10pm. He also proposed Masters 5 x per week. He asked to consider the hour change for the High School Swim season.

Mrs. Grove stated for the department to focus on growing the Masters and Swim Lessons programs instead of cutting back.

Mr. Iman responded it was reported by the department a very small amount of patrons used the facility regularly during the proposed time change and money was being captured to use in other ways.

Chairman Comments: Krista Farris

The Korean War Memorial Dedication was a nice event, very educational and the site now renders balance with both memorials and the pavilion.

Park Master Plan Presentation: Thomas Jones

Survey Changes:

Mr. Jones handed out 2 drafts of the survey, one was the old format with changes recommended by the Staff and Advisory Board and the second was a new format.

Questions were changed, added and expanded upon.

Mrs. Farris suggested to look at the terms being used in the document and to capture information on the use in relationship to schools and fields.

Mr. Wigley suggested asking which user groups are respondent members of participation in the list of Park user groups and add to the demographics section.

Mr. Jones stated the schools will be included in meetings.

Current Master Plan Overview:

The hand out provided by Mr. Jones included a list of projects from the 2009 Master Plan some with scheduled and completed dates.

The new Master Plan was determined to have a need for showing the detail and thought process behind suggested projects.

Mrs. Farris commented the possibility of working with the County on the Green Circle Project to make sure the sidewalk does not end at the County boundaries. She stated to give insight to projects and ideas such as addressing the Miniature Golf Course, Preston Concessions, the Aquatics Facility and Community Gardens.

Interim Director's Report: Lisa Hamaker

Signage Updates:

Mrs. Hamaker presented renderings of signage ideas for Jim Barnett and the Neighborhood Parks. With the Fy14 budget the department will be looking at ways to enhance entrance signs to Jim Barnett Park. Fy15 budgeting will include funds for Neighborhood Park entrances.

Ms. Farris suggested that some neighborhood groups may want to support the signage project financially.

Change in Building Hours:

Mrs. Farris commented adults are underserved and the chance to grow and bring in more people, even opening ½ hour earlier instead of cutting back.

Mr. Elliott was in agreement that most people's days are mapped out and changing the opening time would be a disservice to the public.

Mr. Wigley stated budget concerns should not override serving the public by decreasing opportunities.

Mr. Bacha suggested opening earlier to meet competition demands.

Recommendation:

Brian Wigley made a motion not to change the 5:30 am opening, Rosie Schiavone seconded the motion and the motion carried. The recommendation will be forwarded to the City Manager.

July Event Report:

July 3 Rockin' Independence Eve was received very well with some positive and constructive criticism for next year.

July 4 Liberty 5 K had 375 runners and Rosie Schiavone on behalf of the Shenandoah Valley Runners presented the department with a check for \$2,447.81 from a portion of the proceeds collected.

July 19-20 Candlelight Vigil at the POW/MIA Memorial, Korean War Memorial Dedication, Salute To Our Troops parade (38 units) with Old Town events and the Shenandoah Moonlight Ball (95 mostly out of town participants) were all held between Friday evening and Saturday.

Board Comments:

Mrs. Schiavone stated how very important it is for every child to learn how to swim. Mrs. Farris asked if there had been any discussion to consolidate the July 3rd and July 20th events and if the Beer Garden in front of the Courthouse location could be moved.

Advisory Board Meeting Dates: Krista Farris

Advisory Board Meeting: Monday, August 26, 2013 @ 6:30pm

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

Respectfully submitted; Jennifer Stotler; Park Administrative Coordinator