

Winchester Parks and Recreation  
Park Advisory Board Meeting  
Monday, May 23, 2016  
6:30pm

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

**Present:** John Bentley (Chairman), Shelly Lee (Vice-Chairman), Michael Miller, Bill Stewart, Jules Bacha, Casey Stine, Regina Coates, Hector Robertson and Calvin Allen, Jr.

**Absent:** None

**City Staff:** Lynn Miller, Jennifer Stotler and Eden Freeman

**Media:** Winchester Star

**Guests:** Julius Jones

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

**April 25, 2016 Minutes Approval:**

A motion was made by Shelly Lee to approve the April 25, 2016 minutes as presented and seconded by Michael Miller; the motion was approved.

**Public Comments:**

Retired US Army Commander, Julius Jones, spoke to the Park Advisory Board concerning the strategic placement of Military monuments in Jim Barnett Park. He indicated within the community there is a vested interest and vision from other Military organizations of continued memorials along Maple Drive. Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans hope to create a memorial in the future that lines up with the existing POW/MIA and Korean War Memorials.

Mr. Jones indicated he felt the proposed placement for the Gold Star Families Monument would be better suited for another wartime memorial. His thought was that the Gold Star Families Monument would be better situated to the left of the existing POW/MIA Memorial. Mr. Lynn Miller suggested doing some layouts with photos and bringing site options back to the Park Board.

**Chairman's Report – John Bentley**

No comments at this time.

**City Manager Comments- Eden Freeman**

- 1) City Manager reported the FY17 Budget would have a public hearing and vote on Tuesday, May 24, 2016. A new park maintenance shop has been included in the FY17 Budget.

**Park Director's Report- Lynn Miller**

**Introduction of New Board Member-** Mr. Miller introduced Calvin Allen, Jr. as the newest member to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

**FY16 Capital Projects Update-**

- 1) **Frederick Douglass Park Improvements-** A tot lot playground has been ordered and pricing has been received for resurfacing the basketball courts.
- 2) **Outdoor Baby Pool Resurfacing-** With difficulty in scheduling vendors the work is being deferred until Spring 2017
- 3) **Indoor Pool Shell Re-Surfacing-** The pool will be drained on May 29 to prepare for the resurfacing. An MOU has been drafted between Valley Health and Winchester Parks that will allow customers to use Valley Health's facility while the repair is being made. In turn, Parks and Rec will allow Valley Health customers the same courtesy in July when Valley Health resurfaces its pool.
- 4) **Brick Façade Repair- War Memorial Building-** The anticipated start date is June 6.

**Desert Air Dehumidifier System Repair-** Staff has been in contact with the contractor and the projected timeline to start the repairs needed is May 31-June 17.

**Park Projects Update-**

- 1) Mowing- With the wet weather mowing has been somewhat challenging.
- 2) Arboretum Mulch-Jim Smith and Park staff has scheduled Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> to mulch the Arboretum.
- 3) Willow Trees at Wilkins Lake- For safety reasons, the dying willow trees have been removed. New trees will be planted. The variety of the new trees will be based upon the City Arborist's recommendation.
- 4) Fiber Optic to Maintenance Shop- The conduit is in and when the project is completed it will provide network connectivity to the Park Maintenance Shop and the Dog Park.
- 5) Lions Club- Park staff is waiting for the organization to collect their information and schedule another meeting.
- 6) Community Gardens-The City has 2 community gardens, one is located near Hollingsworth Drive and the other is in Timbrook Park. A dedication of the Timbrook Park gardens is being planned for Thursday, June 23. The community gardens are being utilized as a model for the state.

**Aquatics Personnel-** Both the Aquatics Specialist and the Aquatics Coordinator positions are vacant. Staff has conducted interviews and an offer has been made for both positions. They hope to have the new staff onboard in June.

**Maintenance Personnel-** One full-time staff is out on medical leave and 3 part time positions have not worked out. The Maintenance Division is short-handed. Mr. Bentley suggested trying to find qualified volunteers to help out.

**Interim Assistant Director's Report- Jennifer Stotler**

**Programs-** Children's Swim Lessons had 120 kids enrolled. New sessions will begin June 20. Most of the Summer Camp weeks are full. Gymnastics has 10 enrolled.

**Special Events-**The Splash Bash will be held Saturday, June 4 from noon till 4pm. The annual Family Day Fishing Rodeo will be held Saturday, June 18 from 7am till 10am.

**Next Monthly Park Advisory Board Meeting:** Monday, July 25, 2016 @ 6:30pm.

**Board Comments/Idea Sharing:**

Michael Miller indicated he had reviewed Tevis Park but did not feel it was a feasible area for play, basically due to no parking and the eastern half is a storm retention pond.

John Bentley mentioned the concept of a true "Rec" program for the summer; such as Baseball. He indicated a program at a lower cost that would encourage the kids to come out and play.

Mr. Robertson inquired about the Park's process for background checks on all coaches and volunteers. Mr. Michael Miller indicated it would be a good practice to review the Park's background process. It was suggested by Mr. Lynn Miller that the Park Advisory Board appoint 2 members to review and identify the process with Park Staff and the City Attorney.

**Adjournment-** With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jules Bacha, seconded by Michael Miller and approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Respectively submitted by Jennifer Stotler; Park Administration Coordinator