

Winchester Parks and Recreation
Park Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, October 26, 2015
5:30pm

Meeting Location:

5:30pm- Board Members and staff met Jim Smith on-site at the Arboretum- He gave the Park Advisory Board members a tour of the Arboretum in Jim Barnett Park. The tour was informative and reinforced the Audubon's vision of working towards drafting a "MOU" between the Audubon and the Winchester Parks.

6:00 pm- Lord Fairfax Room, War Memorial Building

Present: John Bentley (Chairman), Shelly Lee (Vice-Chairman), Rosie Schiavone, Michael Miller, Jules Bacha and Bill Stewart

Absent: Hector Robertson and Regina Coates

City Staff: Lynn Miller, Jennifer Stotler and Eden Freeman

Media: None

Guests: Jim Smith, Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society; Winchester BMX, John Wood and Jason Kendall; Melissa Ambers

John Bentley called the meeting to order at 6:10pm

September 28, 2015 Minutes Approval:

A motion was made by Shelly Lee to approve the September 28, 2015 minutes as presented and seconded by Michael Miller; the motion was approved.

Public Comments:

Winchester BMX- Rebuild of the BMX Track

John Wood, Winchester BMX President, gave a presentation to the Park Advisory Board about the concept to rebuild the BMX Track that is located in Jim Barnett Park. Per Mr. Wood, BMX tracks, on average are normally rebuilt every 2-3 years. The last track rebuild for the park was in 2011. The proposed rebuild would consist of changing the obstacles and jumps, reshaping the straight-ways, adding dirt to the jumps, smoothing out unsafe ruts in hopes to increase ridership and the overall aesthetics of the track and the facility.

Winchester BMX has estimated a full track rebuild to cost approximately \$15,000 and half of a rebuild around \$13,000; doing most of the work themselves. The season for BMX racing is normally April-October in Winchester and 3 years ago Winchester BMX hosted a Regional race. They have applied for the same type of race for next season and have hopes to be able to apply for higher caliber races in the future. High caliber competitive races provide an increase in the overall economic impact for the local community.

Winchester BMX is looking for City support financially to rebuild the track and the funds would have to be budgeted for in the next Fiscal year.

Melissa Ambers- Ms. Ambers is a patron that uses the Fitness Room in Jim Barnett Park on a regular basis. She was inquiring to the Park Advisory Board about the 30 minute limit on the fitness machines. The rule remains the same but patrons should use their adult judgment about using the machine longer, if no one is waiting.

Chairman's Report – John Bentley

No report at this time.

City Manager Comments- Eden Freeman
Park Director Update-

Ms. Freeman updated the Park Advisory Board on the search for a director commenting they are dusting off the Assistant Director's position and taking a look at filling that one first.

Interim Director's Report- Lynn Miller

Recommendation to Change Indoor Pool Lap Swim and Water Aerobics

Schedule- Brandon Ware, the Aquatics Coordinator indicated to the Park Advisory Board that the department's Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Water Aerobics class has grown in numbers; 14 people 2 years ago to a current enrollment of 34 people to date. He commented as the program continues to grow so does their need to utilize the whole pool during class. He has spoken with the instructor; the members of the class and with the lap swimmers during the specified class times and most patrons feel the change of schedule would be beneficial to everyone. Brandon proposed a schedule change that places the Water Aerobics class in the pool from 10am-11am on M, W, F and lap swimming on those days to begin at 11am. Shelly Lee made the recommendation to accept the proposed schedule change, Jules Bacha seconded the motion and all approved, so the motion was passed. The new schedule would start with the release of the Winter Program Guide.

FY16 Capital Projects Update- Staff is currently reviewing the lighting options for Frederick Douglass Park and the masonry work for the War Memorial Building.

Henkel Harris Field Update – Field renovations are complete with the exception of approximately 2 more loads of infield mix. The work already completed has put the field in great shape. The project was a 50/50 partnership with Shenandoah University.

Yost Field Update – Winchester Parks and Rec have partnered with Winchester Baseball to convert the infield to a cool season grass. The field renovation is basically complete with the exception of a small amount of infield mix to be added.

Tennis Courts – A requisition was created to secure a vendor do the repairs to the cracks on the Tennis Courts. The cost to make the repairs is between \$17,000 and \$18,000. It will take approximately 1 week to do the repairs and the vendor would be scheduled within the next 3 weeks, once a PO is complete.

The repair should ultimately hold the surface for the next 2-3 years, at that time a broader replacement plan will need to be reviewed. More in-depth repair to the courts would cost approximately \$85,000 while a full replacement of the courts approximately \$350,000.

Apple Blossom Request- Apple Blossom Festival has submitted a request in writing to use the Park again for their annual festival.

Desert Air Dehumidifier System Repair-The Desert Air dehumidifier system at the Indoor Pool is in need of repairs to both compressor circuits A & B and the repairs are estimated to be \$10,750. At some point, the entire system will need to be replaced.

Bridgeforth Field Update- Staff is researching the extension of the dugouts so the option of hosting some NCAA Tournaments could be possible. The expansion of the dugouts would cost approximately \$21,000.

A final decision on the Artificial Turf Project has not been made. The project is still in conversation.

Bodie Grim Field Update- Staff will be meeting with all Park Partners within the next 3 weeks to talk about getting Bodie Grim Field back into shape. The plan is to present about 6 internal options for the field and the repairs.

Interim Assistant Director's Report- Jennifer Stotler

Programs- Flag Football is coming to an end. The Community Rec classes are going strong and the department is seeing good enrollment numbers. Swim lesson numbers are still strong.

Special Events- The "Ghouls and Gals" Middle School Dance was successful with approximately 70 children in attendance. The Spookcessible Special Needs event had about 60 children attend and the Haunted House about 45 people in attendance.

Winter Program Guide- The "Winter Program Guide" will go to the printers around October 29.

Next Monthly Park Advisory Board Meeting: Monday, December 21 (due to the holiday), 2015 @ 6:30pm.

Board Comments/Idea Sharing:

John Bentley commented he thought it was great that Eagles Field is now open to the public and it was a great idea not to fence Preston Field.

Shelly Lee commented she hopes that an agreement between the Audubon and the Park can be established.

Adjournment- With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jules Bacha, seconded by Rosie Schiavone and approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectively submitted by Jennifer Stotler; Park Administration Coordinator