

Winchester Parks and Recreation
Park Advisory Board Meeting
Monday, July 27, 2015
6:30pm

Meeting Location: Lord Fairfax Room, War Memorial Building

Present: Shelly Lee (Vice-Chairman), Hector Robertson and Jules Bacha

Absent: John Bentley, Rosie Schiavone, Regina Coates, Michael Miller

City Staff: Lynn Miller, Interim Park Director, Jennifer Stotler and Eden Freeman

Media: Derek Gomes

Guests: Jim Smith, Audubon Arboretum; Judy Sue Huett-Kemp, Ron Hottle, Jim Burton, Mary Robinson and Frances Lowe, Patsy Cline Festival Committee; Lynn Koerner, Shentel LLC.

Shelly Lee called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

June 22, 2015 Minutes:

No motion was made to approve the June minutes due to a lack of a quorum.

Public Comments:

Patsy Cline Festival; Judy Sue Huett-Kemp

Judy Sue Huett-Kemp spoke to the Park Advisory Board on behalf of the Patsy Cline Music Festival. She presented handouts and commented what an asset the festival is for the community and park. The festival begins on September 2 and continues until September 6. Ron Hottle thanked the City of Winchester for their support and generous donation to make the event happen. Jules Bacha inquired if the committee was marketing outside of Winchester and they are.

Audubon Arboretum; Jim Smith

Jim Smith spoke to the Park Advisory Board giving them insight to the history of the Audubon Society and the Arboretum located in Jim Barnett Park. The Arboretum was established in 2000. Mr. Smith spoke about future plans consisting of an updated MOU, design and development plans, commemorative signs, butterfly gardens and no mow areas and the Jones Family Kiosk. The Audubon can fund most of the plans but would like to work with the City's Arborist to purchase more trees. He would also like to redevelop the idea of "Spruce Up in the Park".

Lynn Koerner, Shentel LLC (Shenandoah Mobile, LLC) Site Acquisition and Project Development

Lynn Koerner re-visited the Park Advisory Board to see what further questions they may have and to ask for a recommendation to advance the cell tower proposed in Jim Barnett Park forward to City Council. A few more questions were asked to Mr. Koerner such as leasing of land, the footprint of the project, and if all other possible locations for the tower had been exhausted. Due to the lack of a quorum the Park Advisory Board was not able to make a motion on the request.

Vice-Chairman's Report – Shelly Lee

Shelly commented on how good the park looks and the fact that summer activities are doing well.

Park Director Position Update- Eden Freeman

Ms. Freeman told the Park Advisory Board she had received a number of great applications and interviews would be conducted the following week. She hopes to be able to bring those interviewed candidates to a closed session at one of the Park Advisory Board meetings.

Interim Director's Report- Lynn Miller

FY16 Capital Projects- Staff has been reviewing all FY16 projects in relationship to the budget. This includes projects such as Frederick Douglass Park, Indoor Pool and Outdoor Pool.

Entrance Sign at Pleasant Valley Road- The new entrance sign is up and Mr. Miller had received 2 phone calls within 24 hours as to how nice the sign looked.

Partner Groups- Lynn and Jennifer have met with all but 2 of the Park Partner Groups. All of the groups have been extremely receptive and some have expressed interest in program expansion. The meetings are going very well and an expanded final report will be compiled.

Green Circle Trail- Staff has been trimming the overgrowth of the Green Circle Trail especially in the Abrams Creek area to enable walkability, safety and proper maintenance. Citizens expressed the concern for the bluebird nesting season so a heavier trim will not take place until later in the Fall; so as not to interfere with the natural habitat.

Severe Weather Policy- The staff is constructing a Severe Weather Policy draft in regards to activities, inclement weather, thunderstorms, wind, etc. to protect all participants in inclement weather situations during outdoor activities.

Interim Assistant Director's Report- Jennifer Stotler

Programs- Camps are being held and enrollment numbers are good.

Special Events-The Fireworks event went very well. Movies on the Mall for July 23 had about 200 in attendance. The Liberty 5K has donated to the Park over the past 18 years a grand total of \$29,053.00 from their July 4 Races. Christmas in July at the Outdoor Pool went well with approximately 500 attending. Parks and Recreation processed a check for \$2,000 to be used for entertainment at Frederick Douglass Family Day on Sunday, August 2.

Staffing- As of July; Parks has hired 3 Lifeguards, 1 Athletic Specialist II, 1 PT Maintenance Tech, 1 FT Maintenance Tech and 1 PT Child Care Assistant.

Next Monthly Park Advisory Board Meeting:

Date and Time; Monday, August 24, 2015 at 6:30pm

Board Comments/Idea Sharing:

Shelly Lee commented how pleased she was with Whittier Park.

Jules Bacha inquired if the cell tower was to be leased where would the money go? General Fund.

Adjournment- Without a quorum no formal adjournment was made. The meeting concluded at 7:35pm