

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
ADVANCE AGENDA
MEETING TO BE HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019
ROSENWALD COMMUNITY CENTER, PARKS & RECREATION OFFICE**

WELCOME - CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 28, 2019

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

VISITORS – QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 28, 2019

PRESENT:

Robert Kuykendall, Chair, At Large
Vicky Ferreira, Co-Chair, Ward B
Donna Ownby, At Large
Elizabeth McGinnis, Ward D

VISITORS:

DuBose Egleston

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Dwayne Jones, Sherrie English

Mr. Kuykendall opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and asked the members if they were able to review last month's meeting minutes. He then requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes from February 28, 2019. Ms. Ferreira proposed a motion to accept the minutes as written. Second motion was received by Ms. Ownby. All were in favor – none opposed.

Mr. Jones proceeded to review Parks & Recreation recent activities, upcoming events, and project updates:

- **Maintenance Projects:** We recently started a substantial maintenance project at the pool house – door replacement. All door jams have rusted over the years, due to pool environment, causing sanding, grinding, and door swelling. This is a \$25,000 job. At the start of this replacement, it was discovered that the pool was built with no metal door headers – which caused the cement block to fall out when attempting to replace doors. Door replacement is currently on hold until a mason can install door headers. This is a minor setback, but job should be completed on time. Augusta Steel to install new doors once masonry work is complete. Doors are approximately 35 years of age. We are also finishing up renovations on the concession stand at the Ridgeview Park ballfield, including repainting with a new color palette. We're still working with the league, as they have some funds available, to take out the concrete dug-outs and install metal roofing.
- **Park restrooms** all opening next week, with the water turned on, after being closed during the winter months. The Park Custodian's schedule has been adjusted to the spring/summer schedule to allow him to work weekends as the parks become more populated during the spring and summer months.
- **Athletics:** Spring soccer has begun at Basic and Constitution Parks as the fields at Ridgeview Park are out of service during the spring months due to the condition of the fields. Baseball/softball will begin next weekend.
- **Aquatics:** Currently, pool staff interviews are taking place. Nate will begin lifeguard certification training next week. This will allow him to actually instruct and certify lifeguards – which we haven't been able to do in the past.
- **Horticulture:** Staff have been very active cutting back perennial beds and mulching has begun at Coyner Springs, North Park, and along the greenway. Arbor Day is coming up on Friday, April 19th. All Commission members will receive an invitation to attend. We plan to work with teachers and students from Westwood Elementary. Volunteer opportunities are available.
- **Park to Park Race:** Event approximately 4 weeks away – 4/27/19. Registration is strong. We are busy gathering volunteers, course marking, arranging water stops, etc.
- **Kid's Mud Run:** This huge event is coming on June 8th and registration is going well as kids love this event.
- **Pacin' for Pints:** This social running club is starting again this month with a community run followed by a trip to Seven Arrows or Basic City Brewery. This group is growing in popularity as people are getting better acquainted and spreading the word.
- **Social Media:** We've recently done some experimental advertising bursts promoting events, trips, classes, etc. We've revised some of the placements and timing as opposed to traditional printing in the local newspapers. This approach is less expensive and has good tracking capabilities.
- **Washington, DC – Cherry Blossom Trip** on April 13th is full.
- **Easter Egg Hunt coming on Saturday April 20th** at 10:00 am for ages 7 and under. Hundreds of children show up for this fun event. Volunteer opportunities are available.
- **Rosenwald Block Party** coming on May 11th from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm.
- **Pet Pawlooza** will be on Sunday, May 5th, from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm. We have many pet-themed activities planned for this day, including a return performance by the Marvelous Mutts.
- **Summer Concerts:** All entertainers have been booked. This year, concerts will all take place downtown along the greenway instead of in Ridgeview Park. Numbers are stronger downtown with a great venue.
- **Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium** occurred on March 15th with a total of 215 attendees. We've received great comments and feedback on this event.

- **Paddling Film Festival** coming on May 1st at Basic City Brewery! Last year was a huge success with over 80 in attendance and was a lot of fun. Looking forward to this event - which could get more people out on the river! More info to come concerning summer kayak rentals and kayak group trips.
- **Project Update – Plumb House Wall:** This project is complete and looks great. Have received great press. This was a long and somewhat drawn-out process as funding was cut. No donations were received toward this project.
- **Greenway – Phase 2B (end of 8th Pl. to North Park to 2nd St.):** As discussed last month, we received VDOT approval to proceed. Received Purchase Order for contractor. Presently gathering survey of areas not yet surveyed and resurveying other areas. Moving quickly and hope to have drawings and out to bid by end of summer. Still some property owner acquisitions to obtain – as we move further down river.
- **South River Preserve (Constitution Park):** The City officially owns the old Invista parking lot. We’ve updated the Request for Proposal (RFP) and have set a calendar date. We are required to work with both trustees – US Fish and Wildlife and Department of Conservation due to deed restrictions in place. We’re very close to finishing up and will send out RFP. There were previous delays due to government shutdown. We do have most things in order on our end. Still waiting on federal and state documents. Most of the asphalt in the lot will be removed and turned into park space. We will maintain some of the parking for events and add some storm water features. Most will be converted into meadows and trees. No designs yet but will be a blend of walking and hiking trails, trees, and shrubs. Project is not expected to begin until 2021 or 2022.
- **Sunset Park:** Task Order and Purchase Order in place for design phase. We had a March 3rd meeting with site visits. We’ve also had some very preliminary theme ideas and plan to go with a railroad theme in an effort to recreate some of the things from a prior era. Design idea is actively moving forward.
- **Civic Signs – Rosser Avenue (Masons/Kiwanis):** We plan to remove and redo these signs, as they are in need of repair, and replace closer to the Riverview Cemetery. This will allow placement of a new “Welcome to Waynesboro” sign directing traffic to Ridgeview Park, Downtown Area, Summer Extravaganza, etc. This will be one additional gateway into the City as Rosser Avenue has now become a main corridor. Hoping to have complete in early July.
- **Appalachian Trail Camp Area:** We recently installed some designated parking spaces, with the help of Public Works and a donation from Appalachian Long Distance Hiker Association (ALDHA), to install low fencing. The project turned out very nice.
- **Parks & Rec Mission/Vision – I “Heart” the Park Campaign:** We’ve recently done some Facebook posts and sent out an informational email regarding our City parks. All City parks are different but yet connected in some way. We’ve asked the public to complete a simple, fun, and engaging survey as to what the 3 first words are that come to mind when thinking of each of our parks. The survey results, along with our mission/vision statement, will be used to develop a promotional campaign. Results will be coming soon. Stay tuned!
- **Greenway – Phase 3 (YMCA through Tree Streets):** There has been some involvement with City Council, and a variety of citizen groups, regarding different potential paths/routes. We will be producing a citizen survey to gather input from entire community (web-based). A firm will collect the data and present the results to Council as to the best route to take. Hoping to have data by July or August.

Mr. Jones completed his review. Members (followed by visitors) were invited to ask questions and/or express any concerns. Questions and discussion occurred regarding the following topics:

- Ms. McGinnis inquired if any basic simulated photos had been used in presenting the Greenway – Phase 3 to the public.
- Ms. Ownby expressed concern about the banks along the river at Basic Park as erosion has occurred due to heavy rain – (banks washing away). Is there anything that Parks & Rec can do about this problem?
- Ms. Ferreira inquired about the trees marked with orange ribbons on the median along Delphine (near City Shops) and the intentions for those trees.
- Ms. Ferreira inquired about the possibility of changing the Parks & Recreation monthly meeting time to begin at 6:00 pm instead of 7:00 pm.
- Ms. Ferreira stated that she attended the Rosenwald Block Party planning meeting. She believes there was good representation but suggests that more volunteers are needed. She requested that all Commission members consider becoming involved in this event.
- Mr. Egleston recommended taking “car counts” during events such as Riverfest, Fly Fishing Festival, etc. to determine if additional parking is needed for future planning purposes.
- Mr. Egleston inquired about flipping the baseball fields to eliminate the problem with water on the fields. Stated that this has been discussed many times but nothing has changed.
- Mr. Egleston stated that the trees that were cut back at Ridgeview Park “look horrible” and that funds should be found to replant new trees as soon as possible.
- Mr. Egleston inquired about the City acquiring an area near Loth Springs and requested details about that acquisition.

- Mr. Egleston inquired about the sign at the East entrance to the City and if plans were in the works to repair, plant flowers, or to restore in some way.
- Mr. Egleston stated that there was once a trailer park located at the end of 14th St. and that funds were allegedly donated to provide water to the AT campers. He stated that the number one request of the campers is for water for their canteens, etc. What needs to be done to make this happen?

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie English

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT – APRIL 25, 2019

MIKE ALLEN

Parks Maintenance Supervisor:

- The War Memorial Pool has been uncovered and started for the season. Everything seems to be running smoothly.
- The fountain downtown has been recoated and is up and working.
- Both concession stands at Ridgeview Park have been completed with a new roof and paint.
- The Woodland shelter roof is finished.
- All restrooms are open and water is on in all of the parks.
- The mason is starting on Tuesday, April 23rd to install lintels above the doors at the pool so the door project can continue

NATHAN ALMARODE

Athletic/Aquatic Coordinator:

Athletics:

- Oversee Coed Volleyball season
- Oversee Get Fit program
- Oversee Fitness classes
- Oversee youth tennis programming for spring/summer classes
- Assist Waynesboro Youth Baseball/Softball League with their season
- Assist SOCA with their season
- Plan for Piranhas swim team season
- Receive race/event duties and work on them as assigned

Aquatics:

- Open pool and get running
- Plan for the season
- Clean, organize, and store aquatic facility
- Order necessary items
- Hire new staff as needed (includes new kayak position)
- Interview, hire and meet with staff to prepare for upcoming season
- Plan for swim lessons
- Plan for Piranhas (swim team)
- Plan for Commonwealth Games
- Plan training for new hires and before season starts

STEPHEN BLACK

Horticulturist:

- General landscape maintenance at all city buildings, annual beds, and park beds including weeding, spraying, trimming, and mulching.
 - We've been mulching trees in Ridgeview Park.

- The landscape around the Woodland Shelter has been cleaned up and mulched.
- We have begun mulching the landscaping downtown.
- The Williams Brother's Tree and Lawn service mulched the beds from Race Ave. to the bridge.
- Continued to respond to citizens' requests for tree maintenance and work with Public Works and tree care companies to complete required tree maintenance.
- The Back Flow Preventers for our irrigation systems have been inspected.
- All of our irrigation systems are operational. We've had to make a few minor repairs.
- I have been working on a plan for seasonal staff to maintain Ridgeview Park. A few staff members will stay in the park at all times and complete mowing, ballfield maintenance, and custodial services.
- We have been preparing for our annual Arbor Day Celebration. Due to weather, the event was moved to April 23, 2019.
- We planted some small red maples and white oak trees in Ridgeview Park with the Waynesboro/Augusta Women's Club. The club donated the trees.
- The baskets have all been planted and are currently in the greenhouse at Milmont. They should be ready to hang downtown before Mother's Day.
- We made a video for the Parks and Recreation Facebook page about making the baskets.
- I also made a video for our Facebook page about the spring wildflowers in Ridgeview Park.

Plans for the upcoming Month

- Continue with general landscape maintenance tasks (weeding, pruning, cutting back, cleaning up and mulching.)
- Continue handling citizens' tree care requests (tree evaluations, price quote requests, etc.)
- Park to Park preparations and event.
- Begin cleaning out annual beds and replant with summer annuals.
- Hang baskets downtown – before Mother's Day.
- Fertilize soccer fields.
- Train a seasonal employee on our water truck to care for our flowers through the summer.

AMANDA REEVE

Event Coordinator:

- Park to Park ½ Marathon – April 27
 - I have been very busy with finalizing logistics for the race. Registration is up this year and we are expecting a great run. Multiple community businesses are sponsoring and supporting this event.
- Kids Mud Run – June 8
 - Registration is open and gaining new registrations each day. The event has received much interest on social media, as well, through a Facebook event page.
 - I am in the process of working with local groups to obtain volunteers, which this event requires a lot of.
 - I will be prepping and delivering flyers to local schools to help get the word out. This has been a great way to advertise in the past.
 - Obstacles are in the planning phase.

- Social Running Club
 - Pacin' recently started its 5th season. We continue to draw new interest and participation each week. The club consistently draws 15-20 runners each time we meet.
- Summer Extravaganza Race – July 13
 - Early stages of preparation
 - Registration will open soon
 - Creating poster for advertising
 - Work with local businesses and organizations to plan volunteers and sponsors
- Departmental Advertising
 - The summer edition of the program insert is in the works. This goes out in late May and gives info on all of the programing, events, and more for the summer.
 - Advertising in local news media - both print and online.
 - Will start working on the next citywide mailer very soon.
 - Pursue different ways of promoting to find the best fit for our department and community.

SUSAN ROBERTS

Rosenwald/Special Events:

- Planning for the upcoming Special Events has been in full swing:
 - Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Ridgeview Park, Saturday, April 20
 - Petpawlooza at Coyner Springs, Sunday, May 5, from 12-4pm
 - Rosenwald Block Party, Saturday, May 11, from 1-4pm
- The trip to the Cherry Blossom/ National Zoo was on Saturday, April 13. Forty-nine area residents took advantage of the trip and spent the day enjoying spring in D.C....without having to mess with driving or finding a parking spot.
- A special thanks to the commission members that have helped out with some of these activities! Your participation is appreciated.

STEPHANIE SELTZER

Project Manager:

Special Events

- Paddling Film Festival (May 1, 2019)
 - Films have been selected.
 - Ticket sales are extremely slow this year.
 - 3 vendor paddling groups will be present.

Projects

- Plumb House Wall
 - Signs were reinstalled
- Phase 2b of Greenway
 - Preparing ROW items for select properties

- South River Preserve
 - RFP has been released 4/22/19. Press release should be going out soon to let everyone know about the project.
- Wayfinding signs
 - Waiting for signs
- Sunset Park
 - Took trip to Clifton Forge C&O Museum and Alderson to explore the ideas of the train station design theme further.
 - Shared new thoughts on the potential of the space with Ross and Engineers
- “Waynesboro” sign on Rosser
 - Wayfinding sign has been ordered. When it arrives, park maintenance will be building new sign boards.
 - Dated civic signs have been removed awaiting new structure
- AT Camper Area
 - Pickup/drop-off signs have been ordered and will be added to the parking area
- I HEART THE PARK
 - We’ve received 100 responses to the survey. Results will be consolidated at the end of the month
- Scenic River Designation
 - This went before council at the 4/22/19 meeting. They will be requesting an evaluation from DCR to see if the South River meets the qualification for Designation.