

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

