

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 25, 2019

PRESENT:

Sam Hostetter, Council Representative
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 March 28, 2019. Ms. McGinnis proposed a motion to accept the minutes as written. Second motion was made by Ms. Ownby. All were in favor – none opposed.

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

- Mr. Jones reminded the members that an Ordinance passed in March 2019 to remove the commission ward restrictions allowing for 6 at-large members, who may reside in any of the 4 wards, and one member from Council. Councilman. Hostetter and Ms. Ferreira stated that this new information will be announced at the end of the next Council meeting, as it has in the past.
- **War Memorial Pool** is up and running. Park Maintenance Supervisor, Mike Allen, completed the opening for the first time since John Goslin retired. Mike completed training during the winter months and is AFO certified. Pool looks great and is running perfectly.
- **Downtown Water Fountain** had been leaking and is under our care. Has since been repaired.
- **Maintenance Projects:** We are finishing up renovations on the concession stands at Ridgeview Park. We're still working with the baseball softball league, as they have some funds available, to take out the concrete dug-outs and install metal roofing. Since the league is still in their busy season, we hope to complete this project by mid-summer following completion of their season. Plan to complete similar to Wayne Hills and North Park with fenced dugouts and metal roofing. Woodland Shelter has a new roof now, which looks great. The door project at the pool is in process. Door jams are being installed before new doors can be replaced. All work should be completed prior to opening day (May 25th).
- **Aquatics:** Nate is currently in pool staffing mode with staff interviews and hiring. He's completed all of his training. Next year, he will be able to administer lifeguard certification so that we will no longer need a third party for lifeguard certifications.
- **Horticulture:** We've received many great comments regarding the tulips and pansies in the City. Fortunately, there hasn't been a need for a water truck with so much rainfall.

Staff are currently in the mulching stages all over the City. Downtown looks great as the bridge landscaping was contracted out due to the volume of work necessary. Arbor Day was moved to Tuesday, 4/23/19, due to heavy rains. Students came from a school in Afton. Our hanging flowering baskets have been planted and are located at Milmont greenhouses and should be in place by Mother's Day (providing no frost is expected).

- **Social Media Advertising:** This winter during team building meetings, the staff were challenged to promote events and other Parks & Rec happenings on social media. Facebook seems to be what most folks are using in this area and are most comfortable with. We've had a couple of video posts on wildflowers and pansy planting. Citizens seem to really enjoy videos over photos. Stay tuned as more will be coming!
- **Park to Park Race:** Race is coming up on 4/27/19. Registration is our 2nd largest ever. Registration will remain open until the day of the race. So far, the weather is looking good and is expected to be windy. This is a huge event with over 600 registrants. We have arranged for a band and will provide food for the runners, at the conclusion of the race, at Ridgeview Park. Folks travel from all over to take part in this event. We've received plenty of support through sponsorships and volunteers.
- **New Magnetic Race Medals:** (Mr. Jones passed around complete set of Run the Valley race medals.) This year, five of our races have their own medal with the date of the race in the corner of the medal. The medals connect magnetically to form the shape of a shoe tread with the City logo in the background. Not every race has a medal. But, folks love to receive medals which encourages them to complete each race. This year, we have a new program – Medals for a Cause – which allows folks to purchase remaining medals (\$20 each). Funds from the purchase of the medals are then donated to non-profit groups such as the animal shelter and Therapeutic Adventures.
- **Kid's Mud Run:** This huge event is coming on June 8th and registration is going well as kids love this event. We expect hundreds of kids at this event and volunteers are needed. Information will be going out to schools in the very near future.
- **Upcoming Special Events:** We're in the early planning stages for the Summer Extravaganza. We have a Paddling Film Festival scheduled for May 1st at Basic City Brewery. We've had a slower registration this year for the film festival. Pet Pawlooza will take place on Sunday, May 5th (Mr. Jones passed around posters for this event). The Rosenwald Block Party will take place on Saturday, May 11th. We have many community volunteers in place. However, there are plenty of volunteer opportunities still available.
- **Easter Egg Hunt occurred on Saturday April 20th.** Hundreds of children showed up for this fun event – possibly as many as 400. Special thanks to all commission members that volunteered to help at this busy event.
- **Greenway – Phase 2B (from Shiloh Church to North Park):** Currently under contract. Surveys are complete. Once surveys are compiled, will be able to update plans that were previously engineered.
- **South River Preserve (Constitution Park):** Very exciting project! As previously discussed, the City now owns the parking lot. The Request for Proposal (RFP) was released for design and engineering services on April 22nd with a firm on board around the 1st of August, which should start the process. This is expected to be a signature project that will transform downtown Waynesboro. This fall, we will reach out to the Riverfest group and others to set some meetings in the winter and spring. Should,

hopefully, go out to bid in the spring or summer of 2020 and for construction in 2020/2021.

- **Sunset Park:** As mentioned previously, we plan to create a train theme in an effort to recreate some of the things from a prior era, recreating a depo effect. Waynesboro had the first C&O depot built in 1889, which has since been torn down in the early 1970s. We took a trip to Alderson, WV to view the 2nd one created in 1896, which is still in existence. Beautiful structure. Design idea is actively moving forward and still coming together. We don't plan to be historically accurate but to have a similar modern day look. We received a Recreation Access Grant, which will be used to pave the two-way road up to Sunset Park. We plan to add educational boards, possibly a large kiosk, in the park that tell the history of the area, including historical photos.
- **Civic Signs – Rosser Avenue:** Signs have been removed and are currently in storage. This will allow placement of a new “Welcome to Waynesboro” sign directing traffic to Ridgeview Park, Downtown Area, Summer Extravaganza, etc. Hoping to have complete in early July before the Summer Extravaganza event.
- **Parks & Rec Mission/Vision – I “Heart” the Park Campaign:** The survey is complete. We received about 100 responses. Survey information to be compiled into 3-word themes. Stay tuned!
- **South River:** We are sponsoring a Scenic River Designation for 6 ½ miles of the South River. This is one more step in the process to put our natural resources on the map. It's a 14-step program through the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). The Scenic River Program is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2020. We're hoping to be able to include the South River in possibly state and national advertising as part of this celebration. We are hopeful that we will qualify but are uncertain at this time.

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 expressed concern regarding protecting new trees planted at Ridgeview Park during special event parking and about compacted soil due to parking in the grassy areas. This has been a major concern. Mr. Jones stated that everything possible is done to protect the trees: Tree rings, roping off areas, and that we return, following events, to aerate the soil.
- Mr. Kuykendall proposed a motion to change the monthly Parks & Rec commission meeting time from 7:00 pm to 6:00 pm, effective May 23, 2019. Second motion was made by Ms. Ownby. All were in favor. None opposed.
- Ms. Ferreira inquired about the Arch Avenue sidewalk project. Some very old bricks were removed during this process and were left onsite. She was inquiring about the status of the brick. Mr. Jones stated that this is not a Parks and Rec project. He believed it had to do with a right-of-way issue and that the brick belongs to the City but is unsure of the details or status of the project.
- Mr. Egleston inquired about two properties that were sold for back taxes and if the City purchased them and, if not, who purchased them. Mr. Jones stated that the City did not purchase and he wasn't aware who the purchaser was/is.
- Mr. Egleston stated that the Fly Fishing Festival would take place this weekend followed by Riverfest the following weekend. He requested that Mr. Jones attend both events to

“count cars” since plans are in the works to remove the concrete areas at the South River Preserve (Constitution Park) to replace with fields and trees, which is of great concern to those hosting both events due to event parking.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie English