

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2018**

**PRESENT:**

Robert Kuykendall, At Large  
Donna Ownby, At Large  
Elizabeth McInnis, Ward D

No Visitors

**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF:** Dwayne Jones, Sherrie English

Mr. Jones opened the meeting at 7:00 PM and asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from May 24, 2018. Robert Kuykendall proposed a motion to accept the minutes as written. A 2<sup>nd</sup> Motion was received by Donna Ownby. All were in favor – none opposed.

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

- **Ash Trees – Emerald Ash Borer Insect** now affecting trees in Virginia. This is a boring insect known by its “D” shaped hole, which destroys Ash trees. The Department of Forestry recommends tree removal to avoid spreading. There are some Ash trees located in the tree streets area and along Wayne Avenue. We have applied for a grant to remove 27 of these trees and have already received a smaller grant for treatment. We plan to be very aggressive with this process and inform the public as we move forward. This process is very detailed as to how best to manage this infestation and we plan to do our best to stay ahead of the process.
- **Inmate Crews – Grounds Maintenance Workforce:** The City now has two dedicated inmate crews working. This is due to the fact that we’ve consistently struggled to find and keep grounds staffing. We have paid for an inmate guard for FY19, which is approximately \$60,000. There has been no extra cost to the City as funds were available in the seasonal labor budget due to the lack of paid workers. Overall, the crew will work 5 days per week but do not quite work an 8-hour day. They work approximately 6 hours per day and are directed by Bernard Newman, Grounds Maintenance Foreman.
- **Run the Valley Summer Race Lineup:** Summer Extravaganza Race is tracking about the same registrants, so far, as last year. The 80s 8-K is coming up in August and folks are already registering and getting excited about this new race. We have the course planned and have a marketing plan in place with a fun poster and cool rewards.
- **Old Town Alexandria Trip** that occurred on Saturday, 6/16/18, was a sold-out trip and a huge success. Fun was had by all participants shopping, taking boat rides, and more.
- **Rosenwald Teen Room** is almost complete! Flooring, lighting, and window blinds have been installed as well as the store-front window/door. We’re just waiting on completion of the A/C and heating. The \$5,000 grant that we received was used to pay for some of these items. Furnishings were donated by the Health Department. We plan to move our Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings to room 7 by August. There will also be an official dedication and reception sometime in August or September.
- **Summer Music Series** – Our last Groovin’ on the Greenway is taking place as we speak. We now have a new tent at this location which was created by Ryzing Technologies located in Staunton. This tent was designed and installed in less than 30 days. If you haven’t seen it, plan to visit and take a look. We do plan to use this tent at other locations in the future. Rockin’ Ridgeview concerts will be coming each Thursday evening throughout July.
- **Fall Harvest Dinner date has been confirmed – 10/6/18.**
- **Garden Symposium date has been confirmed – 10/15/18** and we currently have 3 guest speakers lined up for this event.
- **Paddle the Park** – Due to the heavy rains, we’ve had to cancel many of our guided trips that we had planned. This is unfortunate but could not be avoided due to the high water levels. People are still renting kayaks in the park and using their own kayaks along the river.
- **Coyner Springs – Dog Walker Group Meeting** occurred this past Tuesday evening with about 25-30 folks in attendance. The meeting was regarding the southern connector plans for the road cutting through the park. VDOT staff were there to listen and to inform of changes made to the location of the road, which

will now be closer to I-64. There will be a public hearing sometime in August. We are not aware of the date, at present, but will get the information out once we become aware

- **Greenway – Phase 3 (YMCA through Tree Streets)** – We will be reviewing, interviewing, and selecting a firm in late July. Should have a firm onboard by late August.
- **Greenway – Phase 2 (Port Republic Road to North Park)** – We will be updating the scope of work and have secured two properties which will require some changes. Will be on a similar track as Phase 3.
- **National History Museum** - \$250,000 state funding has been received for design of the museum. One of the preferred sites for the museum is the downtown Arch Avenue parking lot area. Very exciting as this will blend together well with plans for Constitution Park and the Greenway. Many more hurdles to go through to get to construction phase.

Mr. Jones completed his review and asked if members had any questions.

Ms. McInnis inquired about the Farmer's Market group currently using the Constitution area pavilion on Saturday mornings. Is the Farmer's Market being considered to continue with the future museum planning or are they being pushed out? Mr. Jones stated that he does not have an answer at this point but he has spoken with the Farmer's Market group regarding potential other locations. He stated that he is aware that the number of vendors participating in this group have declined. The entire site will change. But, for the short term, the group can continue on Saturday mornings where they have access to power and a gravel driveway area.

Ms. Ownby inquired if there were any updates on Sunset Park. Mr. Jones stated that a grant was received to pave the road leading into the park and also that the plan is to present funding options, for the remainder of the park, to Council sometime in August.

Ms. Ownby inquired about the damage done to Basic Park, while the area was flooded, with vehicles driving through mud and deep water, and questioned if it may have been a better choice to close park. Mr. Jones stated that he did not anticipate the damage. Staffing issues and resources are needed. A locking gate is on the list of items needed.

Ms. Ownby inquired about the AT camper area and if it was going well. Mr. Jones stated that there are no issues that he's aware of. Zero vagrancies. Many hikers using area. Trash has been a slight issue.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie English