

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 23, 2018

PRESENT:

Sam Hostetter, Council Representative
Robert Kuykendall, At Large
Donna Ownby, At Large
Vicky Ferreira, Ward B

VISITORS:

Greg Bruno
Tom Lawhorne
DuBose Egleston
Amanda Nicholson
Urbie Nash

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 June 28, 2018. Robert Kuykendall proposed a motion to accept the minutes as written. Second 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:

- **Horticulture:** We have been working with Public Works on a small project located on Lew Dewitt Blvd. involving the median strips near Zeus Theatre and Lowes. In the early 90's, when the connector road was added, Juniper trees were planted as part of the original landscaping. Junipers became overgrown with weeds and were difficult to maintain. These trees have been removed (dug out) and grass planted – which will be much easier to maintain. May take a little while to look good again.
- **City Ash Trees – Wayne Avenue:** Trees along Wayne Ave. were planted in the early 1990's and are not currently in good shape. The Emerald Ash Borer (an insect) is very invasive for Ash trees. These trees are not infested, however, they will be removed as they are too far gone to treat. They are susceptible to this insect – which would create a problem with spreading among other healthy trees. There are 20+ trees along Wayne Ave. that will be removed. We've received a grant from the Department of Forestry to offset half of the removal costs. The process for removing these trees should take place in early October. We plan to notify citizens along Wayne Ave. using door hangers, newspaper articles, and Facebook posts in mid-September. Funds unavailable at this time for replanting, however, we plan to apply for another grant for planting new trees. We will not be able to plant Ash trees but will plant another species. There is also another grant to offset the costs of treating healthy trees with an injection but does not relate to Wayne Avenue trees.
- **80's 8K Race:** This first-time race occurred Saturday evening, 8/18. We had over 130 runners – which is a great turnout for a first-time race. We partnered with a local non-profit group, the Warm Shelter, and plan to make a donation to this group. Some dressed up in 80's attire, the weather was good, and there was a pool party following the race.
- **New Rosenwald Teen Room is open!** We will take a tour following our meeting this evening. This has been a long process but we are very excited. The teen room has new walls that are freshly painted, new ceiling, asbestos was removed, new subfloor installed along with new waterproof flooring, new HVAC mini split system, new window blinds, and wall lockers were removed to make room for the large store-front style door. This door accomplishes two things: Opens up the room to better lighting and allows for teen supervision. All furnishings, including the large screen TV and whiteboard, phone charging stations, and comfortable chairs/couches, were received by grant from the Health Department. There is also dedicated Wi-Fi service and Netflix for watching supervised movies. A dedicated Health Department staff member has been assigned to this building that will hold weekly classes for the teens. Office on Youth staff will also offer weekly classes utilizing this room working with area teens. The room dedication will occur next Tuesday, 8/28, at 4:00 pm. The teens are preparing some light refreshments for this evening. Kids are already using this room daily after school. Additionally, if there is a teen that may need individual one-on-one counseling they would have access to the conference room next door – which was also renovated. We plan to convert one of the classrooms upstairs to a game room. The Health Department has also donated some machines and games. The hours for these rooms will coincide with open gym.
- **Tree Workshop Coming Next Month!** To date, we have almost 100 registrations and should easily get to 200 by the event date. This is a statewide tree conference.
- **Sunset Harvest Dinner** – This event is coming up on Saturday evening, October 6th. We will be partnering with same vendors for food and beer. This will take place at the future Sunset Park and pricing will be similar, if not the same, as last year's event.

- **Christmas Parade** will take place on Saturday, December 1st. There will be a minor change this year as we are not judging parade entries and presenting awards. We would like available Parks & Rec Commission members to collect toys at the parade for the Toys for Tots program – as we will continue to partner with this organization.
- **2019 Plant Symposium** is scheduled for Friday, March 15th and guest speakers have already been booked.
- **Sip and Saunter Event** to occur on 8/28/18. We are very excited to report that all 42 seats were sold within two hours from the time posted. We have some new partners this year: Wayne Theatre, Mr. Jamison's, and Blue Oregon. A donation will be made to WDDI (Waynesboro Downtown Development, Inc. dba Destination Downtown Waynesboro) from the proceeds of this event. Mr. Bruno inquired about the possibility of having this event more frequently. Mr. Jones stated that he had originally envisioned a Sip & Saunter event quarterly/seasonal. The problem is it's very difficult to get the area restaurants to commit. WDDI took the lead role, for this event. Would love to have more of a restaurant commitment and more events.
- **Parks & Recreation – Staff Updates:** John Goslin, Superintendent of Parks & Horticulture, retired in July of this year. Also, Ben Lancaster, Athletic/Aquatic Coordinator, resigned. We are down 2 FT staff since June. We plan to fill the Athletic/Aquatic position quickly. Department restructuring will also take place moving jobs around – which has not been completely pieced together at this time. Will report more details next month.
- **Greenway – Phase 3 (YMCA through Tree Streets)** – A firm has been selected – McCormick Taylor. We are currently in negotiation stage for scope of work. We are confident that we will arrive at a resolution with this firm. This is the same engineering firm involved in previous Greenway phases. They scored high, however, this selection is not official. This is a VDOT project which will require their approval. Nothing new to report at this time other than the firm selection. Still on track for possible spring 2019.
- **Greenway – Phase 2 (Port Republic Road to North Park)** – This project is fully funded. Received award letter. Working with mercury mediation project who is working in same area. Would like access road to look like a Greenway when done. Moving quickly to make this happen. Involves property issues, construction easements, and VDOT hoops. Made request to local VDOT that project could stay on track with DuPont. Estimated completion summer of 2019.
- **Sunset Park Update:** Going to Council 1st meeting in September to present official request. Have received \$500,000 grant to pave road. Would like to update new Council members on upcoming plans. Putting a package together with Mr. Shaw to provide funds for the park. Will need another level of engineering. If funds are approved, could begin in spring 2019 and park could possibly open in the fall of 2019.

Mr. Jones completed his review. Members and visitors were invited to ask questions and/or express any concerns. Questions, concerns, and discussion took place regarding the following topics:

- Possible Greenway – 2nd Street area
- Paddle the Park program
- Trees down in and across the river – parks and non-park areas
- South River Preserve plans – conceptual map – settlement funds
- Upcoming plans for Constitution Park
- Upcoming plans for band performances - new tent located on the Greenway
- Bank erosion due to installation of new bridge
- Need for additional parking near Constitution Park due to large events – current and future
- War Memorial pool closing in early August

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherrie English