

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
ADVANCE AGENDA
MEETING TO BE HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2017
ROSENWALD COMMUNITY CENTER, PARKS & RECREATION OFFICE**

CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2017

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

VISITORS

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2017

PRESENT:

Pete Marks, Council Representative
Robert Kuykendall, At Large
Donna Ownby, At Large
Brandon Bradshaw – Ward D

VISITORS:

Greg Bruno

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Dwayne Jones, Sherrie English

In Ms. Lewis's absence, Mr. Jones opened the meeting at 7:00 PM. He asked if all had a chance to review the minutes from October 27, 2016 and if there were questions or comments. No response from the group. He then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Motion from Ms. Ownby, 2nd. Mr. Bradshaw. All were in favor. None were opposed.

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

- **Greenway** – Installed a new 200-amp service near the Farmer's Market pavilion area and added 3 new benches and street lights along the arch of the Greenway. The lights match the downtown streetscape lights and is a nice project add-on. Installed irrigation (for hanging flower baskets) and electrical outlets along the poles for possible events along Greenway. All completed recently.
- **Rosenwald** – Electrical service panel in gym was recently replaced with new updated equipment, which was well overdue. Existing was old and outdated system that used plug-in fuses and had braided wiring. Was safe but not up to standards. Also replaced old antiquated throw switch with new materials and made some electrical rearrangements resulting in a much better working electrical system.
- **Ridgeview Park Playground** – Funds were recently allocated to replace the large playground decking at Ridgeview Park that recently failed inspection. The warranty period has passed and new decking will be installed by a certified playground installer. A purchase order will be issued soon with work completion expected prior to spring season.
- **Mad Anthony Mud Run** is just a month or so away and is in the planning stages. This year, both the mud run and the park to park marathon won "Best Of" sponsored by the Blue Ridge Outdoor Magazine, which is a regional publication. In prior years, the park to park had lost to the Roanoke ½ marathon. But, this year we were excited to win both events and have added this to our marketing materials.
- We recently kicked off a new year of our **Get Fit** walking and fitness program for City employees. This program is geared toward lowering insurance rates. We've added some new opportunities and incentives, which were funded using Aetna insurance dollars, such as pedometers from Augusta Health. Participation has doubled since the program began last year as employees seem very excited about this fitness program.
- We've added a great new opportunity this season - **Massanutten discounted ski programs** including lessons to ski and snowboard. It's been very popular with different packages offered for lessons and rentals. Many options to choose from.
- **Cinnamon Bun and Cheese Making Classes** have been very successful and well attended. Instructor, Sharon, from Holly Hill Farms has been very popular with many repeat attenders.
- We are in the process of updating our **Program Tab** due to quality control and distribution issues. We will be using a private printer and then distributing via the News Leader instead of the News Virginian. We've done a little work with the News Leader and, during that time, we received a greater volume of calls. First printing will be with our upcoming spring tab.
- **Plant Symposium (3/24/17)** is our next event. We have 162 guests registered, so far, with speakers coming from all over and guests from NC, PA, and elsewhere.
- **XtremeFest** is booked (6/10/17). This year we have a new event. Chris Clark will be doing a mountain bike stunt show. Since event has been moved to Ridgeview Park, we felt this event to be a better fit for that park.
- **Summer Concert Series – Rockin' at Ridgeview and Groovin' at the Greenway** – All bands and sound are booked. This year, we flipped the order of the concerts and will be hosting Rockin' first and Groovin' second in hopes of our first Groovin' to be our dedication party and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the official opening of the Greenway. Bridge is on schedule for a June - summertime deadline. We hope to be able to fully utilize the Greenway by July. Will keep commission members posted as we move forward.

- **Upcoming Trips:** Roanoke trip on 2/4/17 is full. We have a Maymont/Olive Garden trip coming up in May, which was requested by Greg Bruno.
- **Kayak fleet ready to go!** Plans in place to build a structure by the boat ramp for kayak storage, check out/check in at pool with staff there and to have a credit card program for receipts at pool. Hope to have all in place by end of June after school is out. Boat ramps are currently being used and have been a huge success. Pricing is reasonable for families. Plans are for kayak guide service to guide folks from Ridgeview Park to Basic Park and for kayak rentals as well. The guide can take up to 8. There are 2 tandems and 5 single boats. Guide will pick up folks, will float down the river and hear history and experience the beautiful setting. We will offer on a limited basis either Friday, Saturday or Sunday. Will expand if possible. For years, we have sought 3rd party to handle but unsuccessful. Kayaks were purchased at government pricing and should be paid for by 2nd year of rental program. Prediction is that this will be a success.
- **New Greenway phase closed out** and section is done! Railroad has signed off on structure, last invoice has been paid to contractor, applied for change order for the section under the bridge, and have talked with VDOT. Once crane pads are removed, VDOT will allow release to complete under bridge. If VDOT approves, this should be a spring plan. Not much left to do – minor grading, gravel, and paving. We are hoping that date/timing works with first Groovin’ concert. The plan for bridge completion is sometime in June/July. City will more than likely have a bridge ceremony as in past. Crane pads are located on our side. Otherwise, would be no problem to continue with remaining work to be done.
- **DuPont Mercury Update:** Downtown section – mercury soil has been removed. Now in process of planting, placing filters, etc. Hotspots have been removed. However, they will need access for continued monitoring. Suggestions have been made to leave a 12-ft. gravel path for maintenance. No decision made on this suggestion to-date. DuPont plans to move forward with same process at North Park, Basic Park and City Shops. Concerns are that, in some places, this process can cause harm to tree canopy. The focus has been on the riverbanks, so far, (land owned by DuPont) with City property next and then setting up a model for property owners all the way to Crimora. Have worked with DuPont over the past 3 years and hoping for their help but challenges still exist. Will provide updates as they become available.
- **Sunset Park:** We plan to meet in the next 2 weeks as 2 contractors have been selected for interview concerning masterplan and some engineering. Public Works is taking the lead role. Plan is to select appropriate firm to move forward. RFPs moving quickly. Should be able to start in early March with funding for engineering and design phase. Hope is for an FY18 budget request with City Council. Timing may or may not work. Basic plan is for safe, secure plan for monitoring gas wells, parking for top areas, examine road grading so that it meets standards, and park entrance and signage. This is a layered approach with how far to go. Safety issues are of concern. PD has been looped into discussions. Trails exist now for walking/hiking. Some ideas/concerns/visions have been discussed: Park is initially open on weekends during daylight hours, gates similar to those at Coyner Springs, video surveillance, staff member monitoring park, no ATVs or horses, volunteer group support (local mountain biking group), open wells, heavy forested areas, more isolated areas, funding for capping wells, and connection to Crozet Tunnel. Many decisions to be made but we are further along than before.
- **Crozet Tunnel Update** – Nelson County bid their package and drawings are at VDOT with a 45-day window, which expires end of March. Hoping for approval by end of March. Minor changes would go back to architect. Best case would be May or June – entire tunnel. Could work through the winter inside tunnel – late 2017 and early 2018 timeframe. Planning a mini fundraiser for the tunnel. More details will follow. Money allotted = 2.1 million to finish. If bids come back over that amount, there is nothing to make up the difference. Complex project inside tunnel which drive costs up. Preliminary work to bring trailhead closer to Waynesboro. Met with VDOT. Trail in Nelson County comes out by Colony House – no services at that location. Hoping new City planner can work to bring project back to Waynesboro which is closest community that Waynesboro can benefit from.

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

Mr. Marks asked if there were any ways to eradicate the geese. Mr. Jones explained that this is an ongoing problem without good answers as protocol not conducive to park life. Some suggestions are grape extract, silhouette dogs placed in parks, imprinting which means to kill a goose and leave in area to keep other geese away, nesting which means coating eggs with oil so that they don’t hatch to control the population. There is also harvesting to feed the hungry. None of these ideas work in a public setting. Border collies are another solution but don’t work with City leash laws. Grape extract does work but would be very expensive in materials and labor to apply to many acres and then it washes away when it rains. We are always open to suggestions.

Ms. Ownby asked how many have registered to-date for the Mud Run. Mr. Jones explained that he wasn’t exactly sure but believed the number to be around 300. Last year, we received almost 600 registrations. This year, we’ve added some new things – a monkey bar challenge, hay bales for walls and steps, and will again dig pits for the “crypt crawl”.

Mr. Bradshaw inquired as to how long the Mud Run event lasts typically. Mr. Jones explained that the race starts at 9:00 am and is completed in about 1 ½ hours. Following the race, there is a bonfire and beer sales. The event concludes at around 12:00 noon

when people are shuttled back to their cars in school busses to the Target parking lot. The event is a lot of fun with people dressing in costumes for gift cards (provided by sponsors), there are chicken wing eating contests and more.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherrie English

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT – FEBRUARY 23, 2017

DWAYNE JONES

Special Project Updates:

STEPHEN BLACK

Horticulturist:

Current Events:

- General landscape maintenance at all city buildings, annual beds, and park beds including weeding, spraying, trimming, and mulching.
 - We've continued to clean up perennial beds to prepare them for mulching.
 - All trees in Coyner Springs Park have been mulched
 - All trees and beds in North Park have been mulched.
 - All trees along the Greenway have been mulched.
 - We've been weeding all annual beds
 - The cuttings have been cleaned out of the pots along Main Street.
- Continued to respond to citizens' requests for tree maintenance and work with public works and tree care companies to complete required tree maintenance.
- We have begun tasks to prepare for our annual Arbor Day Celebration, which will be April 21, 2017.
- We've been cleaning up brush in the parks.
- The Christmas tree drop off site has been removed.
- We've attended multiple training sessions.
- Basket brackets have been removed from the Dominion shelter and repainted to prepare them to be mounted on the new light poles along the new section of the Greenway near the Pavilion.
- New pots have been ordered to be placed along Arch Avenue. Trees have also been ordered to be planted in the pots.
- I've put together a request for price quotes for treatments to help prevent Emerald Ash Borer infestations in many of our Ash trees. Treatments will occur this springs. We have not yet detected EAB in Waynesboro, but there are reports in the surrounding area.

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.)
- Snow removal as necessary
- Assist with preparations for the Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium.
- Order and plant new trees in Constitution Park to satisfy our Trees for Clean Water Grant.
- Prepare our annuals which we've stored through the winter for spring planting.
- Removal all turf blankets from soccer and ball fields.
- Prepare for planting our baskets.

JOHN GOSLIN

Park Maintenance:

- We finished installing a new boat launch at Rife Park.
- We installed a new picnic table in Rife Park.
- We've painted the inside of North Park and Ridgeview Park rest rooms.
- We've begun the process of remodeling the downstairs bathrooms at the Rosenwald Center.
- We are nearly complete in our preparation for the Mad Anthony Mud Run.
- We have installed a new electrical panel in the gym of the Rosenwald Center.
- We have installed 3 light poles on the new part of the Greenway. Each poles has an electrical outlet and has irrigation for the plant baskets.

BEN LANCASTER

Athletic/Aquatic Coordinator:

Athletics:

- Finalize reviews from staff and participants from the Mad Anthony Mud Run
- Planning for the Park to Park Half Marathon
- Continue to monitor the Coed Volleyball season
- Plan for Inner Tube Water Polo
- Work with Youth Wrestling coach for possible summer league
- Begin to plan for the Park Piranhas Swim team
- Continue to work with adult and youth tennis programming for spring classes
- Assist Waynesboro Youth Baseball/Softball League to gear towards the start of the 2017 season
- Continue to work with Waynesboro Quarterback Club as needed
- Work with SOCA and their 2017 spring season
- Work with Fishburne and their baseball season
- Begin planning for Summer Extravaganza races
- Assist with planning of the Kids Mud Run

Aquatics:

- Monitor applications from returning staff and new staff
- Hold interviews for new and returning staff
- Meet with Pool Manager for changes and new ideas
- Have swim lesson registration online
- Plan for training days in May

AMANDA REEVE

Event Coordinator:

- Mad Anthony Mud Run 2017
 - Event day preparations: supplies, equipment, volunteers

- Set up and take down both packet pick up location and race day location
- Clean up and restore race items
- Park to Park ½ Marathon 2017
 - Promote Registration via e-blasts and Facebook
 - Deliver posters promoting the race to area businesses
 - Work with location organizations to secure volunteers for the event
- Kids Mud Run
 - Set up registration for the 3rd Annual Kids Mud Run via Run Sign Up.
 - Work with local businesses to set up sponsorship of this event.
 - Create flyer for promotional use within the city and to all city schools.
- City Wide Walking Program
 - GET FIT Waynesboro Healthy Living program for all city employees launched in January for the second year. 73 employees are signed up so far.
 - Each month a newsletter will be sent out to ALL city employees with healthy living and program info to include extra incentives and info about individual and departmental progress!
 - We are offering a more varied opportunity to gain points this year and have seen an increase in participation.
- Social Running Club
 - Pacin' for Pints Social Running Club will be kicking off its third season on March 16th!
 - This group offers a great opportunity for runners of all abilities to come out and be active.
 - We use local parks and roads in the community for running and then gather at local businesses after for dinner. This club has been a great success and we are excited to see what 2017 brings.

SUSAN ROBERTS

Rosenwald/Special Events:

- Watch for the next program guide in the Staunton News Leader on Thursday, March 16th.

STEPHANIE SELTZER

Special Events Coordinator:

Special Events:

- Plant Symposium (March 24)
 - We currently have 187 people registered for the event.
 - E-blasts are going out regularly.
 - We are offering CEUs through VNLA, VSLD, and Mac-ISA with credits for LA's pending.
 - We received permission to offer LA courses. Next, courses need to be submitted for review to ascertain credits for each.
- XtremeFest (June 10)

- In addition to the mountain bike stunt show we will also have a Frisbee champion there to perform demonstrations and introduce kids to that sport.
- Will be working on getting community groups/vendors for the event.
- Summer Music Series (Rock N Ridgeview and Groovin at the Greenway)
 - Rock N will be Thursdays in June- 5 total shows
 - Groovin will be Thursdays in July- 3 total shows
 - Emails are out to food vendors to determine interest and availability. A schedule will be forthcoming.
 - Sound will be provided by Chad Wyatt as in the past.
- Summer Extravaganza (July 8)
 - All bands have been booked
 - Sound will be provided by a new vendor Sound Impressions. They are taking a very proactive approach.
- Petpawlooza (May 13)
 - Pets-Mart has been approached for sponsorship and they are working with their corporate office to determine their level of participation. I checked back they have just entered a new budget cycle so the manager will be approaching the subject with the corporate office but feels they will be able to participate at least at the store level.
 - Last year's vendors have all been contacted and responses are beginning to come in.
 - Demo scheduling has not been going well. Waynesboro K-9 unit is not available. Quiet Acres is not available this year for a herding demonstration. An agility handler had been interested but is also not available on the date of the event.
 - Marvelous Mutts (a national dog stunt show) is available but our venue does not support their needs. I am weighing some alternatives to determine if they can work within our parameters. I am not optimistic however.
 - Pet Caricature artists have been approached but have not officially signed on.
- Tree Workshop (September 15)
 - A tentative speaker line up has been created and contact is beginning to be made with them.

Publications:

- Information for the City Wide Newsletter for spring (April, May, June) has been submitted to designer.
- The February e-newsletter went out on the 2nd. The open rate was 35% with a click-through rate of 17%. Instructional classes getting the largest percentage of the clicks.

Trips:

- Roanoke trip on February 4th went as planned and those in attendance enjoyed themselves.
- Brew Ridge Trail Trip still only has 3 registrants. If registration does not pick up, I may dial this trip back to van size and let it proceed as planned instead of cancelling it. Current registrants would get a discount due to not using the mini-bus.
- A Maymont/Olive Garden trip and a Lewis Ginter/VMFA trip are being advertised for summer.
- I have planned a Natural Bridge/Beerwerks trail trip for the fall. Details are being worked out and then it will be advertised.

Other:

- The kayak planning group has met and reported a plan for moving forward. Some items are being tweaked by Dwayne before moving forward.
- CivicPlus, who the City uses for its website, has just absorbed another company that focusses on Parks and Recreation management software. Ben and I saw a demonstration of the REC1 software. It is very reasonably priced and would streamline our current methods for facility rentals and all of our programs and even allow for point of sale which could be of benefit to the pool. It would offer a good deal of benefit for both front end and back end users.
- Wall mural entries have been received and are being reviewed and considered for forward movement on the Wall mural project at Lyndhurst Road/Rife Park.