

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
ADVANCE AGENDA
MEETING TO BE HELD Wednesday August 16, 2023
Rosenwald Community Center**

WELCOME - CALL TO ORDER

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF July 17, 2023

DEPARTMENTAL REPORT

MEMBERS – QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

VISITORS – QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF July 17, 2023

PRESENT

Jim Wood, Council Representative
Robert Kuykendall, Chair
Donna Ownby
Jared Bissinger
Vicky Ferreira

ABSENT

Jabriel Tyler

VISITORS

None

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT STAFF: Dwayne Jones, Kayla Coakley

Mr. Jones opened the meeting at 6:07 P.M. at Sunset Park. He asked the committee members to review the meeting minutes from the last meeting on July 17, 2023. Mr. Kuykendall requested a motion to approve the minutes. Mrs. Ferreira proposed a motion to accept the minutes as written. A second motion was made by Mrs. Ownby. All were in favor – none opposed.

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

- **War Memorial Pool Splash Pad** has had issues with power supply, since its remodel. It originally had enough supply to hold the baby pool and pumps, when it was created in the 80's. With the addition of the splash pad we needed to add a line of power dedicated to the chlorine pump and a circuit for the splash pad. Now things are running properly.
- The **Ridgeview Tennis Courts** have been soft washed to maintain the courts coating. They look much better.
- We have scheduled power washing for **Basic Park** shelter and **North Park** shelter, restrooms, and concession stand.
- **Loft Spring** kiosk has new signage displaying a map of the greenway, park systems and river resources.
- **New Trees Planted** at Ridgeview, North Park and around the playground at Rosenwald.
- **Blue Ridge PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management)** have been putting together a volunteer work day at Ridgeview Park for volunteers to learn how to manage woody invasive trees, shrubs, and vines. The workday is currently scheduled for August 15, 2023.
- **Groovin on the Greenway** continues to have good turnouts. We have now added one additional evening, Thursday, August 3rd.
- **Sunset Spectacular** went Great. With a crowd of over 300 people. We look forward to figuring out next year's festivities.
- **Kite Day** is scheduled for September 24th at Coyner Spring Park. We have started the planning process and excepting vendor applications.
- **Fall Foliage Race** is scheduled for October 14th. This will be the last race of the Run the Valley Series.
- **Pickleball and Spikeball Tournaments** are in the works for September. We are Partnering with the YMCA and the Murphy Deming Students.
- **South River Preserve** the scope and bid have been negotiated with Summit. We have spoken to the Dept. of Forestry about a grant. Contractor should be on site in August.
- **South River Greenway Phase 4** The owner has given us permission to enter his property for the purposes of trail engineering. If an easement can be obtained with the new property owner, we anticipate going out to bid for construction before the end of the year.
- **Sunset Park** is expected to have a Grand Opening in October. Our Commission Members toured the site, learning about Basic City History that influenced architectural designs at Sunset Park. We also talked about future plans to bring in revenue such as Food Truck lunch days, shelter rentals, and private event park reservations.

Mr. Jones closed the meeting at 7:18 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Kayla Coakley
Office Manager

PARKS AND RECREATION REPORT – August 16, 2023

MIKE ALLEN - Parks Maintenance Supervisor:

- The War Memorial Pool is officially closed except for the weekends of the 19th and 26th of August
- The last phase of the door install has been completed at the pool with the last 3 remaining doors installed August 14th.
- Mountain Mobile Wash has pressure washed the tennis courts, Basic Park pavilion, North Park Pavilion, restrooms and the concession stand. He is on the schedule to pressure wash the River shelter, Woodland shelter and the playground at Ridgeview Park.
- New hand dryers have been installed at The Coyner Springs restrooms
- We've gotten quotes from Davis Masonry and Integrity Glass to install a new door and office for Mrs. Bellamy at the Rosenwald Community Center.

STEPHEN BLACK - Horticulturist:

- General landscape maintenance at all city buildings, annual beds, and park beds including weeding, spraying, trimming, and mulching.
- Continued to respond to citizens' requests for tree maintenance and work with public works and tree care companies to complete required tree maintenance.
- Tulips and violas have been ordered for our annual display beds to be planted this fall.
- We have been pruning trees along the greenway, and in Ridgeview Park.
- I have created a request for price quotes for general maintenance of the Serenity Garden. The request is currently on eVA.
- I have gotten updated quotes for mowing equipment to replace equipment we no longer have. The finance department is working on funding for these purchases.
- All of our parks and recreation maintenance staff attended and completed our annual HAZMAT training.
- We have lost a few seasonal employees, but we have one new employee starting Aug. 14th and another we are waiting for drug screen results.

KYLIE RITTS- Special Events Coordinator:

Groovin' on The Greenway

- We had our last Groovin' on Thursday, August 3rd.
- We have put out a survey on our Facebook page to receive feedback on what to change/not change for next year.

Kite Day

- Saturday September 24th at Coyner Spring Park
- Vendor applications are live, and due by September 15th
- We are in the process of getting the timeline and supplies put together for this event

Shenandoah Valley Plant Symposium

- Friday March 15th, 2024
- We have already begun looking for speakers for our annual Plant Symposium. We currently have 2 out of 3 speakers selected and confirmed for our speaker lineup.

Christmas Parade

- The parade is set to be on Saturday December 2nd at 6pm
- Vendor/parade applications will go live on September 1st

AMANDA REEVE - Race Director and Athletics Liaison:

Races

Fall Foliage Race – October 14

- Registration is nearing 100 runners which is ahead of last year at this time.
- This is always a popular race taking place the same weekend as the art show in downtown Waynesboro.
- Last year we were able to run the majority of the 5k on the South River greenway because the new extension to North Park had open and allowed for more trail to run. This year we will be reassessing, taking the SRP progress into consideration.

Couch to 5K Training Program

- I will be leading an 8-week training program starting August 21st. The program is geared toward helping participants who are not currently running, incrementally increase time from walking to running. The program has gained good attention and the community seems to be excited. It will culminate on October 14th with the participants of the training program completing the Fall Foliage race 5K!

Athletics

- Soccer – fall season is underway with practice head of games starting in September with Augusta United.
- Quarterback Club – Registration for fall football that takes place within the parks, saw a significant increase in registration. Registration is up from 150ish last year to 230 there about, this year.
- Pickleball – Ridgeview Park has seen a great turnout of people using the courts this summer. All 4 courts are often full on the Tue/Thurs night meetups. There is another group that meets Mon/Wed/Fri mornings for several hours and that group is 20 strong.
 - A regular pickleball attendee donated 2 temporary nets that can be put up and taken down easily to add 2 additional playing courts when attends sometimes gets up to 40 individuals in one evening. That is exciting news!
 - September 30th Parks and Recreation plans to hold a tournament at Ridgeview Park. This is a work in progress.

Special Programming

- Girls on the Run – is a national training program that focuses that reaches girls in 3rd through 5th grades. William Perry Elementary school hosted a team last spring and it was a huge success. Since then I have been working with teachers and other staff members at each of the other 3 schools to encourage teams being hosted there as well. This program is in the most critical part this month, August. Site applications, coaching applications, and then girls registering all have to happen in a short timeframe. I will share more details next month but this is an amazing program and a great outreach for our community.

STEPHANIE SELTZER - Project Manager:

Projects

South River Preserve

- Summit was awarded the bid. We are waiting on them to get the required bonds. Once we have the bonds we will enter a contract and issue notice to proceed.
- Anhold/Timmons have submitted an acceptable proposal for CEI and we will be issuing a change order to their current PO.

Sunset Park

- Construction is well underway: Work has begun on the overlook walls and concrete is being poured in the plaza area. Utility work should begin shortly.
- Daily site visits and numerous meetings each week with construction crews.
- The route for Dominion to install energy to the site was surveyed and marked. Dominion should be starting work in about 3 weeks or so.
- A new dual finish date was established during the last meeting: The top of the park should be complete by September 29 and the lower work on the ponds and entry should be complete by December 1.

South River Greenway Phase 4

- Brian Collins was given an offer for the easement and it was met with questions and requests. This process will be an ongoing one.
- We are ready to advertise Notice of Willingness.

Misc

- Working with three different eagle scouts on various projects at the parks. Met with two of the scouts to review their work plan and summary. Things are moving along on these projects.
- Working with Tom Saielli an Invasive Management Specialist from Blue Ridge PRISM (blueridgeprism.org), to hold a citizen training day to identify and remove/treat invasive species. The area we will be focusing on for the first round of this is at Ridgeview Park along the river and into the wooded area near the soccer fields. During a field visit to finalize the plan for the August training an aggressive invasive was discovered that needed immediate attention and is resulting in a delay to the field day. The hort team and Tom met on-site and treated the invasive. A follow up treatment will be done soon so and our fall field day should stay on track.

- Spent an afternoon on the Community in Motion bus with OOH staff and community volunteers. The bus moves to different neighborhoods and offers youth an opportunity to play and get library books from the bus. It also has resources and information on various programs available for adults. It was extremely hot so we had few visitors at 3 of the 4 stops but the last stop had numerous kids/families waiting when we pulled up. It was a fun time connecting with the kids in that neighborhood.
- AT meeting to discuss the season and make changes to upcoming publications regarding resources the City has to offer hikers. The AT campground has had some issues with the homeless and it is reaching the hikers system of communication. Working with PD to get a system in place to remove non-AT hiker campers.

Sunset Images

Large overlook footer



Shelter with concrete pad and work on tent anchors



Shelter with concrete pad and sidewalk/bed area

