

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, September 15, 2014
Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Monday September 15, 2014 at the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center. The following commissioners were present: Chair John Marr, DD Dawson, Anthony Hill, Joe Riley, Abe Shearer and Ritchie Vaughn. Also present were Lee Foerster, David Wigginton and Wanda Jones from Parks and Recreation.

1. Welcome-Chair John Marr welcomed all present.
2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes-with the July meeting being a tour of facilities and no August meeting and no additions or corrections, the minutes of the June meeting were approved.
3. Review of Policy Manual Revisions-Lee gave an explanation of the revised policy manual that was emailed to all of the Commissioners.
4. Personnel Adjustments and New Employees-vacancies in several positions have resulted in the following:
 - A. Lynn Turner-Senior Coordinator
 - B. Matt Little-Special Events Coordinator
 - C. Joseph Baroch-Recreation Program Specialist I
 - D. William (Trey) Jerrels III-new Blacks Run Stream Health Coordinator
5. Projects Status Updates:
 - A. Blue Stone Trail-the trail through Georges and Purcell Park should be completed in October. JMU should start constructing their section of the trail soon.
 - B. Ramblewood-Phase I is almost finished. There are some areas bare of grass that will have to be reseeded in April. Work on Phase II will start in two years. Some fill material was delivered to the park for free and Public Works will be bringing in some dirt. The estimated cost is \$2,700,000. We hope to reduce this cost with donated materials. The ball parks should be completed in 2017.
 - C. Accessible Fishing Pier at Purcell Park-Trey Jerrels (Blacks Run Stream Health Coordinator) obtained a grant from MillerCoors LLC to build a handicap pier at Purcell Park. The construction was performed by MillerCoors employees and park staff. The grant covered the cost of the platform and several floating water gardens. We should be able to obtain other grant money to cover the cost of paving the path from the Blue Stone Trail to the pier and for the railing.
 - D. Dog Park Grand Opening-The Grand Opening of the Dog Park is scheduled for September 17th at 10:00am. This park covers approximately 2 acres, has a separate fenced area to unleash your dogs before entering the main area, four doggie doo stations, a pavilion with dog biscuit shaped tables, a dog biscuit shaped bench, a kiosk, and signs with the rules and policies of the park. One commissioner commented "this is another example of how our Parks and Recreation listens to what people want".
 - E. Other business-The dog swim was very popular again this year with an estimated 130 dogs in attendance. The Dream Come True Playground has a new fire station. This station was custom built and has a fire coat, boots, fire hose, fire hydrant, and also comes with its own Dalmatian. Future plans for the park include an ice cream station and a TV weather station. The "Plan Our Park Committee" will have its final plan for a downtown park back the end of October. Eddie Bumbaugh would like to know if the commissioners would move their monthly meeting to October 27th to review these plans and vote on the concept at that time. The commissioners agreed to move the meeting but would like to be emailed the plans ahead of time in order to have time to review them.
6. With no questions or comments from Commissioners or and further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 27, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center.