

**Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**  
**September 21, 2015**  
**Shelter #10 – Hillandale Park**

The regular monthly meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Monday, September 21, 2015 at 6:00 pm at Shelter #10 in Hillandale Park. Chair D. D. Dawson called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: Brent Holsinger, Ritchie Vaughan, Abe Shearer, and John Marr. Absent were Joe Riley, Anthony Hill, and Deanna Reed. Also present were Lee Foerster and David Wigginton from Parks & Recreation and Thomas Jenkins, Rich Edwards and Marshall Hammond from the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition.

1. Approval of the minutes – To save time and daylight, the minutes from the June and August meetings were postponed and will be voted on at the October Commission meeting scheduled for October 19 at 7:00 pm at the Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center on Simms Avenue.
2. D.D. Dawson turned the meeting over to Lee Foerster, Rich Edwards, Thomas Jenkins and Marshall Hammond to give an overview of how the Rocktown Bike Trails were designed, developed, constructed and maintained. *(Please see attached document).*
  - Lee began with a brief history of how the land was acquired and what steps city council took to purchase the land and the community input sessions conducted to address any community concerns.
  - Rich explained how the trails were designed and laid out according to the skill levels of the bike riders and how features were incorporated into the trail to make it more challenging to more experienced riders.
  - One of the goals was to help develop riders to be able to take the next step in riding which would be to advance to trails similar to what Massanutten has currently.
  - The commission members took a brief walk up to the pump track area of the bike trails and Rich pointed out features of the site that makes the pump track so unique.
  - Commission members were then taken along the “green” trail or the least difficult of the 3 trails that is designed for beginner riders.
  - Rich Edwards explained how the 3 trails were kept separate and distinct from each other with features that are incorporated within.
  - The tour ended near the power lines that run from Dogwood Drive and South Avenue into Hillandale and the plans to develop bike trails along this route.
3. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

**The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center.**

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- Harrisonburg's reputation as the "Bike Capital" and the growing popularity of mountain biking in our region. We were recognized as a "bronze level" ride center by the International Mountain Bicycling Association.
- Background of trails in our region and the need for close, accessible, beginner oriented trails for skills building. Emphasis on proximity of trails, the need for trails within the city limits that are skills builders for the more demanding trails found in the National Forest or at Massanutten.
- Brief History of the proposal to build trails at Hillandale and community involvement to plan, build, and maintain the system. Continued community involvement and outreach to make a legal connection to circle dr. with the "Geronimo" Trail. [DNR Article on the trail construction.](#)
- SVBC volunteer hours in Hillandale and major projects
- Walk the trails and highlight:
  - Signage that is in the park
    - Color coding for difficulty of trails
    - 3 levels of difficulty
  - Difference in difficulty levels: Width, rocks, obstacles
  - Pump track and technical trail features
  - Kiosk and bicycle repair station (Eagle Scout Project)
  - Water Fountain
  - Partial construction of the power line trail
- Outline vision for Hillandale and how it fits into the bigger picture of Harrisonburg as an IMBA ride center and the need for progressively built trails within our city limits. The idea of a "bike park" at Hillandale with more features whether dirt and or wood.
- Future of mountain bike trails at Ramblewood park.
- Vision of Greenway (Shared-use trail) connections between city parks. Bluestone trail to Ramblewood and other connections.