

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting

October 19, 2015

Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Monday, October 19, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center.

- 1 Chair D. D. Dawson called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: Ritchie Vaughan, Deanna Reed and Joe Riley. Absent were Brent Holsinger, Abe Shearer, John Marr and Anthony Hill. Also present were Lee Foerster and David Wigginton from Parks & Recreation and Stephanie Howard, Simms Center Supervisor. Without a quorum present, no official business could be conducted.
- 2 Approval of the minutes – Without a quorum present, approval of the minutes was deferred to the next Commission meeting.
- 3 Progress on the Power Line trail in Hillandale Park - Lee showed some power point slides of some of the work being done at Hillandale on the new Power Line bike trail (South Avenue extended into Hillandale). The Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition has hired Brad Stone who owns “402 Trails” to finish the upper section of the Power Line Bike Trail in Hillandale Park. Trails should be complete the week of October 12 – 16.
- 4 Blue Stone Trail damage from flood event of September 22nd, 2015 - Lee showed some power point slides of the damage the flood waters did to Purcell Park and to the pavers that lead up to the bridges in Purcell. Public Works is responsible for the upkeep of the trail and Parks & Recreation is responsible for mowing and trimming of the grass and other ground vegetation.
- 5 Significant park trees - Greg Zell, a volunteer with the Virginia Big Tree Program, measured a Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) at Purcell Park and a Sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*) at Riven Rock. Our Sassafras is **third largest** in the state and the Swamp White Oak is **fourth largest** in the state. The measurements to score a tree are: Trunk Circumference, Tree Height and Crown Spread according to the Virginia Big Tree Program. Total number of points scores a tree. Our Trees - Sassafras = 212 points, Swamp White Oak = 315 points.
- 6 Report on tournaments and golf outings at Heritage Oaks – Lee reported that there are 44 events scheduled for Heritage Oaks this golf season which include tournaments and fundraisers for a variety of local groups, schools and organizations.
 - We are also very proud to be the home course for 4 local school teams: Harrisonburg High School, Turner Ashby High School, Eastern Mennonite School and Eastern Mennonite University.
 - The Virginia State Golf Association brought in a VSGA Collegiate Tournament this year which saw 12 Virginia Colleges & Universities compete over a two day event.
 - Heritage Oaks also hosted 3 VHSL Conference Tournaments and 5 VHSL Regional Tournaments.
- 7 Comments, Questions from Commissioners
- 8 Tour of facility with Stephanie Howard
- 9 Meeting adjourned around 8:30 pm.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gilkerson Community Activities Center.