

**Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**  
**February 22, 2016**  
**Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center**

The regular monthly meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Community Activities Center. Chair D. D. Dawson called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: John Marr, Deanna Reed, Chris Pipkins, Joseph Riley and Ritchie Vaughan. Also present were Lee Foerster, David Wigginton and Connie Lawson from Parks & Recreation, Thomas Jenkins of Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition and Matt Hassman, Safe Routes to School Coordinator. Absent were commission members: Abe Shearer and Brent Holsinger

1. Chair D. D. Dawson welcomed and introduced new Commissioner Chris Pipkins.
2. Approval of the minutes – The minutes from the November meeting were approved as written.
3. Election of Officers - Joseph Riley made a motion to nominate D. D. Dawson to continue as Commission Chair and Ritchie Vaughan to serve as the Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by John Marr and approved by unanimous vote.
4. Golf Course Food Service Vendor RFP - David Wigginton reported that we are looking into different venues, the RFP has been advertised for past week and a half. A caterer from Northern Virginia/Maryland area showed interest, but looking at their web site, they appear to be a very “high end” operation. March 10<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for questions from potential vendors with bids due by March 17<sup>th</sup>. The ideal candidate may be a “Mom & Pop” business or local caterer that could use commercial kitchen to cater out of when not serving golf patrons. Currently there is no tenant there. D. D. Dawson suggested we contact Triple B Café that runs a concession at the local live stock market on Rt. 11 North High Street. Chris Pipkins suggested working with Spotswood Country Club.
5. Administrative Specialist interview process review - Lee Foerster reported that Wanda Jones had to retire for medical reasons. We received 156 applicants for the position which were narrowed down to 30, then 20, then 12, then 6 and we conducted 5 interviews. Connie Lawson was selected as the top candidate.
6. “Connect Our Schools” presented by Thomas Jenkins of Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition with presentations by Matt Hassman, Safe Routes to School Coordinator. - There is a petition going around in support for the expansion of network of greenways along with focusing on the safety of students while biking or walking to school. SVBC has launched a website in February: [ConnectOurShools.org](http://ConnectOurShools.org) with the announcement of the new school on Garbers Church Rd. They have already received over 1000 signatures of support. Emphasis is now on connecting THMS, HHS and new elementary school area to allow for safe routes. One of the desires is to connect existing paths thru parks and residential areas and to improve or install sidewalks. The Bluestone Trail will be used as a model for future paths. Eventually SVBC would like to extend the paths to other side of city, pending improvements to Country Club road and the I-81 overpass. Trails would open up the city to a lot of people.

7. Comments and questions - Lee Foerster discussed the problems with the recent snow removal and cleanup. Our Parks division did a great job in plowing parking lots and clearing sidewalks.
  - Deanna Reed discussed the upcoming JMU exhibit of Lucy F. Simms and school at the Simms Center. Exhibit will be from April 25, 2016 until the reunion.
8. Meeting Adjourned.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7:00pm  
At the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activity Center**