

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
April 18, 2016
Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Monday, April 18, 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, Brent Holsinger and Ritchie Vaughan. Also present were Lee Foerster, David Wigginton and Connie Lawson from Parks & Recreation. Absent were commission members: Abe Shearer, Chris Pipkins and Joseph Riley.

1. Chair D. D. Dawson called meeting to order.
2. Approval of the March minutes - John Marr motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Deanna Reed. Then minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. Black's Run Clean Up Day results-Lee Foerster discussed the success of the 2016 Black's Run Clean Up. Despite cold weather 500 volunteers participated and helped to remove more than 2.5 tons of trash. The event received good press coverage and local breweries sponsored some of the clean up groups with the motto: "Clean Water Makes Great Beer".
4. Wind damage to Ramblewood Park backstop- Lee Foerster discussed the damage done on April 9, 2016. Strong winds caught onto the sunscreen at the backstop causing severe damage to one of the main support poles. The backstop has been temporarily repaired and is available for use. Three estimates have been received to repair the bent pole, the repairs are expected to be complete in mid May and cost \$4500.
5. Golf course entrance road concerns-Lee Foerster discussed the concerns with the new entrance road being built and how it will affect the golf course. Parents and faculty of the new school will be using the new entrance road but the golf course has been assured that this will not impede traffic for the golf course. Another concern was talk of a detention pond that would have destroyed much of the entrance landscaping and been a huge eyesore. Lee Foerster worked with the city engineer to replace the plans of a detention pond with a culvert and drainage pipe. The current road for the golf course can still be used while they are constructing the new road with only a possible short closing of the road near the end of construction.
6. Follow-up to early spring opening of restroom facilities-Lee Foerster discussed the early opening of three restroom facilities due to public demand. On April 9, 2016 these bathrooms had to be closed due to freezing temperatures, portable heaters were used successfully to keep the pipes from freezing. However the Eastover tennis court fountain was on and the pipes burst.
7. New playground equipment trends video-Lee Foerster discussed and showed a video on the new equipment that is available for use at the parks. New equipment was reviewed that focused on safety and current trends in social, cognitive and motor skill development for

children. A CIP (Capital Improvement Program) was submitted in November, 2015 listing parks that need new equipment, starting with Morrison Park in 2017-2018. When adding new equipment usually a Request for Proposal is used for bidding. This involves picking a few key pieces of equipment, then listing the square footage and the amount of funds available. Companies then bid on the project.

8. Celebrating Simms Flyer-Lee Foerster shared an email from Stephanie Howard about the Celebrating Simms Event on April 25, 2016. The event will feature 62 panels displaying all the information and photographs collected from interviews conducted by two JMU students and a JMU professor.
9. May Commission meeting tour discussion-Lee Foerster suggested asking Ed Steele to give a disc golf demonstration during a tour of the disc golf course at Westover Park, followed by a tour of the National Guard Armory and a visit to A Dream Come True Playground.
10. Comments, questions from Commissioners-There were no comments or questions.
11. Meeting Adjourned.

**The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 16, 2016 at 6:00pm
Meet at the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activity Center
We will be touring the Disc Golf Course at Westover Park,
The National Guard Armory and A Dream Come True Playground**