

**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes - October 17, 2016**  
**Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center**

The regular monthly meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Monday, October 17, 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: Abe Shearer, John Marr, Brent Holsinger, Deanna Reed, Chris Pipkins, and Joseph Riley,. Also present were Luanne Santangelo, David Wigginton, and Connie Lawson from Parks & Recreation. Absent was commission member: Ritchie Vaughan. Observing the meeting was JMU student Julia Hess.

1. Welcome- Chair D. D. Dawson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
2. Approval of the September 19, 2016 meeting minutes- Brent Holsinger voiced concern with the wording of the September minutes, motion was given and seconded to change the wording. The September minutes were amended to strike out the words "the Commission" and add the word "staff" in its place. The minutes will now read as, "Some of these CIP items have been submitted consistently over a 10 + year period and **staff** felt the departments CIP needs should take priority." The minutes were then approved by majority 5 to 2 vote, with Brent Holsinger and Chris Pipkins opposed to changes and all other commission members present voting for changes.
3. 2017-2018 Capital Improvement Projects Presentation- Luanne Santangelo discussed how economical issues occurring during the past 5-6 years have affected the ability of the city to fund projects that are currently on the CIP list. Emphasizing on how this has placed importance on maintaining and developing our current parks and facilities. The Department's vision of quality programs, parks and facilities was discussed using the 2003 and the 2013 Comprehensive Master Plan for Parks and Recreation and city resident survey to list the top activities at the parks, the most requested improvements and the most used parks, noting a deficiency in neighborhood and mini parks. Goals are to enhance and improve existing facilities and enhance ADA accessibility. Top priorities on the CIP list at this time include:
  - a. Pad 4 on the Smithland Soccer Field which has not been in use due to lack of permanent parking. With county approval temporary parking has been installed, but this does not include any ADA accessibility.
  - b. Improving the facilities at the pool by resurfacing the interior and deck surfaces, which have not been resurfaced since 1996, and replacing the slide.
  - c. Park ADA accessibility, front entrance to Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center, handicap access to bleachers at Purcell Park and improvements/renovations needed at Kid's Castle playground to meet ADA requirements and improve overall safety of equipment. Emphasis was placed on using community input on the development of a new playground for the park.
  - d. Irrigation needs for Heritage Oaks Golf Course, enlargement of the pond, use of Frazier Quarry water or storage tanks to help with water needs during dry times.
  - e. Later projects would include Athletic field lighting at Smithland, and the re-turfing of fields and soil improvements to help with drainage. Improving/repairing or replacing the surfaces at the Skate Park, and a Splash park at Ralph Sampson Park.
  - f. It was noted that Public Works has taken over the hiking/biking trails in order to receive the VDOT funding that is necessary for this project.
4. Events and News updates around the City and Parks and Recreation- David Wigginton discussed the new swing at Dream Come True Playground, which enables a parent to sit across from their child. The Regional and State tournaments recently held at Heritage Oaks Golf Course. And he mentioned

the Breast Cancer 5K run and the Monster Mash Bash events taking place on Saturday, October 22, 2016.

5. Comments, questions from Commissioners

- a. Brent Holsinger would like to look at the rules and responsibilities of the Commission.
- b. D.D. Dawson would like to look at the Master Plan at the next Commission meeting.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 8:39pm.

**The next Commission meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center.**