

Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes – February 27, 2017
Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Community Activities Center. Vice Chair Ritchie Vaughan called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: Deanna Reed, Chance Ebersold, and Joshua Humphries. Also present were David Wigginton and Connie Lawson from Parks and Recreation, Erin Yancey from Public Works and Kyle Lawrence and Thomas Jenkins from The Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition. Absent were commission members Chris Pipkins, Joseph Riley, Brent Holsinger and John Marr. Since there was not a quorum no official business could be conducted.

1. Welcome- Vice Chair Ritchie Vaughan welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
2. Introduction of new Commission member- New commission member Joshua Humphries was introduced to the other members of the Commission.
3. Approval of January 23, 2017 meeting minutes- Minutes were tentatively approved but without a quorum will be held for approval at the March meeting.
4. Presentation by Erin Yancey Re: Bike/Pedestrian Plan – Erin Yancey from Public Works gave a brief update of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan with the long term goals of providing safe access to all areas of the city for pedestrians and bike riders. As part of the Comprehensive Plan it has been updated and is up for approval. Went over strategies for development and implementation.
5. Connect Our Schools presentation by Kyle Lawrence and Thomas Jenkins- Kyle Lawrence and Thomas Jenkins from the Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition gave a brief presentation on the Garbers Church Road Shared Use Path. This path would connect 3 schools (THMS, HHS and Bluestone Elementary) with sections that would go through Westover and Hillandale Parks. Entire path would be ADA accessible.
6. News and Highlights from Parks and Recreation- David Wigginton presented. The ordinance wording on the role of the Parks and Recreation commission has been sent to the City Attorney for revisions. The Commission members will need to determine the priorities for the Bi-Laws. A list of upcoming events was distributed and several of the events that have already happened were discussed. Next activity guide is at the press and will cover 5 months.
7. Comments, questions from Commissioners- Chance Ebersold had questions regarding the timing of the Holiday Parade. He has received requests from local downtown businesses to move the parade to Saturday at around 5 or 6pm. They are hoping this would generate more business. Deanna Reed has talked to the City Manager and the City Attorney who are in the process of drafting a policy regarding the naming of facilities.
8. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center.