

**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2017**  
**Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center**

The regular monthly meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Community Activities Center. Chair John Marr called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: Ritchie Vaughan, Joseph Riley, Deanna Reed, Chance Ebersold, Brent Holsinger, and Joshua Humphries. Also present were Luanne Santangelo, David Wigginton and Connie Lawson from Parks and Recreation, Bucky Berry and Brent Berry observed.

1. Welcome- Chair John Marr welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
2. Approval of January 23, 2017 meeting minutes- Brent Holsinger moved to approve the January 23, 2017 minutes, seconded by Joseph Riley. Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. Approval of February 27, 2017 meeting minutes – Joseph Riley moved to approve the February 27, 2017 minutes, seconded by Ritchie Vaughan. Minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.
4. Discussion of Park Naming- After much discussion it was noted that all existing Parks that were named after an individual were done so based on the persons contributions (non-monetary), which enriched the parks. Ritchie Vaughan made the motion to deny the request based on lack of clear and formal renaming guidelines. Recommended that city attorney develop formal application process for naming and renaming. This was seconded by Chance Ebersold.
5. Creation of New Bi-Laws for the PRAC- Luanne Santangelo 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 be researching comparable Bi-Laws and bringing a list of their priorities to the Commission meeting on May 15, 2017 for discussion.
6. Discussion on Changing of Holiday Parade- Luanne Santangelo discussed why the Holiday Parade will continue to be held on its current date and time so that it does not conflict with other parades in the area and to ensure that the JMU Band can still perform.
7. News and Highlights from Parks and Recreation-Luanne Santangelo highlighted the Prom Dress Give Away, Black's Run Clean-up and the Easter Egg Hunt, and the upcoming Food Truck Rally, Dance Recital, Youth Tryathlon and Breast Cancer Run. Also discussed the new staff positions and the reorganization of the current CAC Staff. The Price Rotary Center renovations are in progress with a Grand Re-Opening slated for September, 2017. A proposal from the Vine and Fig to use the city property located behind them as an edible garden is under review and Luanne is asking them to make a presentation to the Commission soon. Comp Plan has started with Committee 3 being Parks and Recreation specific, Commission members are encouraged to attend some of the meetings. Seasonal hiring has begun, with 50+ new hires. Summer programs are all starting soon.
8. Comments, questions from Commissioners- Ritchie Vaughan questioned what was being done with the garden beds at Liberty Park, Luanne Santangelo explained that they were working on a more formal process for who can garden there and what their responsibilities would be. Joshua Humphries pointed out that the Chamber of Commerce Blog might be a good place to advertise upcoming events for the parks, such as the Re-Opening of the Senior Center.
9. Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm.

**The next Commission meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center.**