

Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2017
Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center

The regular monthly meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Monday, August 21, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Community Activities Center. Chair John Marr called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: Brent Holsinger, Chance Ebersold, Deanna Reed, Joseph Riley, Joshua Humphries, Ritchie Vaughan and Kevin Gibson. Present from Parks and Recreation: Luanne Santangelo, Brittany Clem and Connie Lawson. Guest speaker: Jonathan McRay. Observing the meeting was Kelly Hartsell.

1. Welcome- Chair John Marr welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
2. Introduction and welcome of new Commission Member- Kevin Gibson was introduced and welcomed as the newest commission member.
3. Approval of May 15, 2017 meeting minutes- Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
4. Vine and Fig Presentation by Jonathan McRay- Jonathan McRay a founding member of Vine and Fig presented information on the Black Run Forest Farm a neighborhood edible park and arboretum. Located near Ashby, Jefferson, and Madison Streets. Vine and Fig is interested in leasing three lots of city land adjacent to The Salvation Army to expand the park. Would be using land as an orchard and nursery with the possible inclusion of a pocket park. Property is in the flood plain and cannot be developed in other ways. Section near Blacks Run is also slated for use in the Northend Greenway. After much discussion Ritchie Vaughan motioned to support the concept as presented and request review by appropriate city agencies. Chance Ebersold seconded and Commission approved with unanimous vote.
5. CIP Discussion-Luanne Santangelo discussed some of the projects being funded this year. Resurfacing of the interior of the pool with a zero-depth entrance to the wading pool and possible addition of spray features. Other alternative would be to convert the wading pool into a splash pad. Price Rotary Senior Center renovations are almost complete with a reopening slated for Sept 7, 2017. Another project being funded is the resurfacing of the Eastover Tennis courts in the spring. Guest observer Kelly Hartsell voiced his concern over the idea of adding pickleball lines to the tennis courts. After much discussion it was decided to table the discussion for later date in fall so that more information could be acquired, possibly inviting a representative from both pickleball and tennis communities to discuss painting of lines on the courts.

Luanne ended with asking for input from the PRAC in relation to specific projects that need to be addressed with the CIP.
6. PRAC Ordinance changes- Luanne Santangelo presented. The Commission members reviewed the changes made to the Ordinance and By-Laws for the PRAC. Joseph Riley motioned to amend the By-Laws under Rates, Fees and Charges. Section would now read: “The PRAC may provide input and make recommendations regarding rates, fees, charges and **policies** as deemed necessary.” All changes were approved by unanimous vote. The Ordinance and By-Laws will now be sent to the City Council for approval.
7. News and Highlights from Parks and Recreation- Brittany Clem presented the new version of the monthly reports and asked for input from the PRAC on the format and what they would like to have featured in the reports.
8. Comments, questions from Commissioners- Joseph Riley asked about the policy on swim diapers for the pool
9. Meeting Adjourned at 9:25pm.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18, 2017 at 7:00pm in the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center.