

Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Commission
Minutes – Meeting 3/18/2019

1. Meeting called to order
2. Call to approve the minutes from last month's meeting.
Dr. Donna Armstrong had a correction to her title as well as on the website.
3. Minutes approved with corrections
4. Lori Kizner with Boys & Girls Club of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County (BGC-HRC), back with revised presentation.

Highlights:

- Better define parameters for areas to focus (where people congregate in the parks)
- There will be documentation that enforcement of the non-smoking policy will not be on park staff
- Further education to the public
- Possibly partnering with local youth sports leagues to research their smoking policies.
- Action steps and process
- Challenges and opportunities
- Signage with just graphics, no works
- Recommendations/lessons learned
- Harrisonburg Smoke and Tobacco-Free Parks Initiative is not a ban, but a voluntary action.

Her organization will present to City Council 3/26

Action steps discussed between Lori and Commission:

- a. Create signage and who is responsible
- b. Develop internal communication plan
- c. Train field staff (Hburg parks and Rec)
- d. Identify priority parks and where to install signs
- e. Alternative location for smokers
- f. Implement plan

Dr. Armstrong motioned to approve Ms. Kizner's plan, Dan Martonik seconded the motion with discussion.

Kevin commented that he thought the presentation lacked necessary details needed to move forward, no real plan in place. Dan Martonik also voiced concern over the lack of concrete details in the presentation. Kevin reiterated that he would like to know details of the follow up further education in the community, and are these signs going up just for the sake of signs if there is no clear follow up afterwards.

Further discussion within the committee:

- a. What is the point of the signs if there is no enforcement?
- b. What is the plan after the signs go up? After 6 months? 1 year? 3 years?
- c. Does Hburg Parks and Rec pick up the slack and become responsible for the initiative?

As an alternative, Luanne presented PRAC an option for consideration that would expand this initiative, support the request of the BGC-HRC and align ourselves with the National Recreation and Park Association

(NRPA). The work of NRPA is to “Impact Communities Through Conservation, Health & Wellness and Social Equity”, the Three Pillars. We would begin our alignment with the Health & Wellness pillar with the proposed Smoke-Free/Tobacco-Free sign initiative a component. Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation would develop and implement a plan to address the health of our community through the services we provide. *(synopsis taken from Luanne’s letter to City Manager on 3/20/19)*

The PRAC amended the original motion to state they support healthy parks as a broader initiative and see the smoke/tobacco-free signage campaign as a singular part of a larger plan. The PRAC asked the Director to draft a statement to address the broader health and wellness goals of the department, which would include the signage campaign and could be sustainably supported by staff. A unanimous vote approved this amended motion.

5. Director’s Report:

- All projects currently going forward.
- Splash pad scheduled to be completed at the end of April
- Pool still on schedule to open for Memorial Day weekend
- A local city resident is donating more land to Harrisonburg Parks and Rec, would like to preserve it for park land.
- Shamrock 5k went very well, most ever registered, most \$ raised.

6. Action Items

- 4/6 Prom Dress giveaway
- 4/13 Easter Egg Hunt
- 4/13 Blacks Run Clean Up
- 5/11 Food Truck Rally

7. Meeting adjourned.