

**Parks & Recreation Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2019**  
**Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center**

The regular monthly meeting of Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Monday, August 21, 2017 p.m. in the Community Activities Center. Chair Kevin Gibson called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: MuAwia DaMes, Chance Ebersold, Obie Hill, James Logan, Daniel Martonik and Deena Reed. Present from Parks and Recreation: Genevieve Chandler, Erik Dart and Luanne Santangelo.

- I. Welcome – Kevin Gibson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.
- II. June Meeting Minutes – Minutes were not available and will be approved at the September 16, 2019 meeting.
- III. Introduction of new staff member – Genevieve “Gin” Chandler was introduced as the new Administrative Services Manager.
- IV. PRAC Bylaw Amendments - James Logan reviewed the PRAC Bylaws amendments. Obie Hill made a motion to approve the PRAC Bylaws. The motion was seconded. The Bylaws were approved unanimously.
- V. Purcell Park Master Plan – Luanne Santangelo gave an update on the Purcell Park Master Plan. LSG Landscape Architecture is assisting with the project. RK&K is an engineering firm partnering with the project, and GreenPlay LLC is handling the engagement and survey development. Focus Group meetings, public forums and random sampling are means to gather input from the community. Discussion was held regarding the Downtown Park, Ralph Sampson Park and Denton Park. Discussion consisted of project timelines, priorities and current updates.
- VI. Morrison Park – Luanne Santangelo provided an update. Tennis courts will be converted to pickleball courts. The Harrisonburg Rotary Club through the proceeds of the Strawberry Festival will donate approximately \$45,000 that will cover all costs.
- VII. Capital Improvement Program – Luanne Santangelo discussed the two main capital projects for fiscal year 2021 will be to finish the Kids Castle and playground and the bathrooms at Riven Rock Park.
- VIII. Director’s Report and Project Updates –
  - a. Luanne Santangelo shared the community food forest group presented a written proposal for PRAC to assess.

- b. Two hundred ash trees have been cut down because of the infestation of the emerald ash borer. Approximately four hundred more trees will need to be cut. Chips are being repurposed and with the receipt of a grant more trees will be planted with the assistance of Harrisonburg High School service learning students.
- IX. Event Attendance/Advocacy Opportunities:
- a. Obie Hill's children participated in the Triathlon. He and his children enjoyed the event and was complimentary of the staff.
  - b. Jim Logan attended the Liberty Park event. He shared the park was beautiful and it was a great day.
  - c. Dog Swim will not take place due to the change in operation with the pool.
  - d. September 28<sup>th</sup> is the International Festival that will be held downtown.
  - e. All commission members were asked to commit to a date to attend a focus group meeting for the Purcell Park Master Plan.
- X. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

**The next Commission Meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activities Center.**

Respectively submitted,  
Gin Chandler  
Parks and Recreation Administrative Services Manger