

**MRM** APPROVED 5/16/19

## Recreation and Parks Board Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2019 Meeting

### Attendance:

**Board Chair:** Mike Riegel

**Board Members:** Marc Mignogna, Karl Munder, Andrew Heck, Heather Hobbs Michael, Scott Rieland, Ryan McCulley, and Council Member Hushour

**Newspaper:** Tony Burke (Messenger)

**Excused Absence:** George Guevara

**Town Staff:** Gina Campanile, Director of Communications and Events  
Ashley Collier, Parks & Special Events Coordinator, Park Naturalist

- Meeting started at 7:02 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The March meeting minutes were approved.

### Chairman's Comments:

- Chariman Riegel announced that Spring has Sprung and enjoys seeing the flowers and trees blooming. He indicated that people are using the recently added Prospect Park Pickle Ball Court. He stopped by and talked with some users and they indicated they would not mind seeing one of the town's tennis courts dual stripped to include a pickle ball court.

### Councilmember Report:

- **Council Member Hushour gave an update on the following:**
  - Mention the Town Council has adopted new voting rules for council liaisons. The rules only allow liaisons to vote at commission meetings to break a tie vote, and he did not vote on the approval of the March minutes.
  - Eagle Scout Project in East – West Park: Scout Zach Miller was going to be improving the nature trail by installing a trail map billboard and installing mile markers on the trail at intervals of a 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a mile. This was to take place on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Beautification Commission update:
    - The Commission completed the cleanup of the garden located at the Watkins Park Rails to Trails trailhead.
    - The Commission will soon be updating the sign used by the town on South Main Street by McDonalds. The current plywood sign is past its useful life and needs to be replace.
  - Girl Scout Troop 818619 conducted a trash pick-up event in Watkins Park.

- Rails to Trails Tap Grant
  - The Grant is in the process of being converted by the State Highway Administration to a Recreational Trail Grant that has less stringent engineering requirements and fits the current use of the trail.
- Caboose Pavilion
  - Work has started on the pavilion. The footers were poured and the contractor is waiting for the concrete to properly cure prior to continuing with the pavilion.
- Rigler Property
  - Was asking to see if the Board would be interested in pursuing this property for and addition to the Windy Ridge Park. This property has several benefits, including providing direct access to Windy Ridge. Land would be acquired through Frederick County land acquisition grants.
  - The Board indicated they were interested and would like for the town attorney and staff to draft a letter to the owner.

### **Guests and Presentations**

- Boy Scout Eric Daniels
  - Spoke before the Board to give an update on his Eagle Scout Project of placing “Little Free Libraries” in three parks. He first presented this project to the Board in the Fall of 2018. During his presentation he indicated his park choices of Prospect, Vest Pocket, Watkins Park and Wildwood. Upon discussing these locations with the board, it was determined the best parks for these would be Vest Pocket, Watkins Park and Wildwood Park.
  - Boardmember Rieland request to be briefed on his project. Mr. Daniels explained the process of how these “libraries” worked, they would contain a variety of books, a plaque would be located at each location indicating people to “take a book, leave a book. He also indicated that once he leaves/ages out of Boy Scouts, that his troop may take over the operation of them.
- Pickleball Enthusiasts Jo Hoyle and Mary Uzzo.
  - Wanted to thank Gina for the courts and for reaching out to them.
  - Talked about the condition of the playing surface of the Prospect Park court. It has a dip in it and the court is a good practice court but not for tournaments.
  - Would like to see more courts in town.
  - Councilmember Hushour mention that the basketball court located in the back of Prospect Park as a potential location for another pickleball court.
  - The guests responded to a question about the length of the game and they mention it is about 1 ½ hours.

## Town Staff Report

- Parks Manger Gina Campanile attended a Specialty Events Liability Training at the Emergency Services Association Inc. in Westminster. She indicated that once she completes the review of information, she will report back to the Board if changes are needed in the way special events are handled.
- Town staff is working with an electrical contractor to complete the removal/replacement of the electrical shed in Watkins Park located at the old Skate Park location.
- The town hired Nancy Hernandez to help with staffing the caboose and help out with other Parks-related projects.
- Keep Maryland Beautiful Grant was awarded to the town for the purchase of 6 trashcans and 3 pet waste stations. All have been installed except 1 pet waste station which is being reserved for the expanded dog park. All town expenditures have been reimbursed.
- Twin Arch Storage has once again agreed to fund the Wildwood Park concert series. Gina and Ashley will begin organizing these events for every other Sunday at 6:00 pm.
- New park pavilion signs were installed in Watkins and Prospect Parks. The new signs allow for the reserving of the pavilions via a cell phone. A new Dog Park rules sign was installed also.
- Pavilion rentals are coming in daily. Once season is over, the Recreation and Parks Department is considering looking at adding on-line payment options for the rentals. The Department was unable to address several problems with the current website provider to accept outside payment applications this year.
- A new field allocation system was proposed. The Department will set a deadline for organizations to have completed and submitted field requests. Once this is done a special parks meeting will be held with the heads of the requesting organization to determine the field allocations.
- IT support will have fiscal numbers ready for the upcoming April budget workshop for the upgrading of the security cameras in Watkins Park.
- Pickleball has finally arrived in Mt. Airy.
- The park sign for the Twin Arch Crossing Park has been completed.
- The Public Works Department completed the building and installation of a new foot bridge in Village Gate Park. A resident has requested the bridge to be made more stroller friendly, so an asphalt ramp will be added by the Town's Public Works Department. A gap will remain to help prevent skateboard and bicycle damage to the bridge.

## **New Business**

- Ashley Collier gave a report on new upcoming events being held in the town's parks.
- Due to the success of new pickleball court and the desire to add several more, it was mention that there were funds currently available in this year's budget for the installation of two additional nets/courts. Each net has a cost of \$303.00 dollars including shipping. **Board Member Heather Hobbs-Michael made a motion for the town to purchase two additional. The motion was seconded and all approved.**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm