

Recreation and Parks Board Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2019 Meeting

7/18/19
APPROVED


Attendance:

Board Chair: Mike Riegel

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

Newspaper: Tony Burke (Messenger)

Excused Absence: George Guevara, Andrew Heck

Town Staff: Gina Campanile, Director of Communications and Events
Ashley Collier, Parks & Special Events Coordinator, Park Naturalist
Barney Quinn, Town Engineer
Chaslyn Derexson, Assistant Town Engineer

- Meeting started at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The April meeting minutes were approved.

Chairman's Comments:

- Chairman Riegel gave his time to Councilmember Hushour for his report.

Councilmember Report:

- **Council Member Hushour gave an update on the following:**
 - Beautification Commission update:
 - 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 replaced.
 - Town elections were held on May 6th with the following results: Current Councilmember Jason Poirier was re-elected, and Karl Munder and Pamela Reed were elected to the Council.
 - The Mayor is currently going through the process of appointing the councilmembers to their respective commissions as council liaisons.
 - The town budget for Fiscal Year 2020 was passed, and the requested funding amount for the Recreation and Parks Department was left intact.
 - The ordinance that would allow for the annexation of the area known as "Dorsetown" was re-introduced.
 - There is an upcoming work day on Rails to Trails on June 1st with the Navy Jr. ROTC program.

- Rigler Property
 - The town is in the process of setting up a meeting with the property owners.
- The Mt. Airy Historical Society has T-Shirts for sale.

Guests and Presentations

- Girl Scout Abigail Parker
 - Spoke before the Board to describe her Girl Scout Gold Award Project.
 - Her project will be the design and installation of solar powered path lights along the section of rails to trails that run from the “railyard” and Watkin’s park.
 - The lights would be removable and stored in a town shed and be used during events so people could safely walk along the trail.
 - She expects to have the project completed by Camp Night on August 10th and offer a walk at that time as a way to unveil the project.
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- Pickleball Enthusiasts Jo Hoyle and Mary Uzzo.

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 mentioned 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