

## WALKERSVILLE PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 2023

In Attendance: Jay Lochner (Commission Chair), Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis (Commissioner Liaison), David Toohey, Patricia Rowley, Anna Newman, and Kevin Conley. Also present were Ashley Bailey, Communications Specialist, and Kelly Woods, Park Maintenance.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Jay. The November meeting minutes were motioned to be approved by Patricia, and seconded by Anna. Approved by all. The December meeting minutes were motioned to be approved by Anna, and seconded by Kevin. Approved by all. Patricia took notes at this meeting for Kitty who was absent.

### **REVIEW TREE LIGHTING –**

Patricia noted the need for better sound system. Mary Ann pointed out that they had one but only Burgess Weddle used it. We will fine tune sound system situation next year. Jay noted the weather was good and there was a great turn out. Food truck was a great addition. Dave noted that not all the free hot chocolate coupons were used. We spent \$291 and had budgeted for \$600. Mary Ann thought the cookies went over well and few were left over. It was good to have them individually bagged.

### **GVAA REPORT – MICHELLE FYOCK**

Winter season is in full swing with basketball, wrestling, and baseball workouts.

Lacrosse spring registration is open. For the first time this year they are trying to start up a girls team.

The fall football season was a big success with the ponies winning their championship. These are the fourth and fifth grade teams.

GVAA has better outlined commissioner responsibilities.

Elections are coming up in March with yearly terms for president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary, and two-year terms for four board members. All positions are open.

They are switching their communication strategy and transitioning their website over to TeamSnap.

They are planning a “Meet the Coaches Night” at the Walkersville Library on February 2 from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. They plan to represent all the different sports, get feedback from previous participants, register participants, and recruit new families.

Michelle asked if we had any recommendations for food trucks for the upcoming wrestling tournaments. Mary Ann suggested she talk to Celeste McNiesh, who has organized PTSA food truck fundraisers in the past and to also look into Glamour View Creamery, which is a popular local food truck.

### **MANOR HOUSE UPDATE – RON LAYMAN**

The Christmas program organized with the Marine Corps went well on 11/27. They had 168 people attend (48 families). On 12/4 they had 32 families attend. They collected 253 items for the food bank.

A project was approved for a Troop 628 scout to fix the basement flooring. After they clean out the basement, they will pour the concrete and level it. This will be done in the spring.

There were a couple of window repairs.

All the electrical work is now completely done with all new wiring.

They would like to request additional parking. This can be done with a change in the location of the current fence in order to provide additional parking. Parking often gets filled up by dog walkers, etc. Ron provided a map, which he obtained from the National Park Service, of the property as it existed historically. The red line is where the current fence is located, and he would like to move it back to the corner of the house, which is the original location. The Parks committee voted to recommend this change to the Town Commissioners. There was a motion by Dave and seconded by Patricia.

### **PARK PLANNER MEETING –**

Mary Ann, Kitty, and Anna met with park planner Human & Rhode on 11/8. Next step is to decide if we want them to write up a proposal for projects at the 3 parks. If it is free then everyone agrees it would be beneficial. Possible additions are a skate park, dog park, change a couple horseshoe pits at WCP to Bocce ball. Also a possible half basketball court at Trout Park and foot golf in place of the existing golf course at HFP, although the burgess requests another entrance/exit prior to more additions at HFP. To date there has been minimal discussion regarding this among the Town Commissioners. Kevin pointed out that it would make sense to address the second entrance/exit first before requesting a proposal for any additions at HFP. Mary Ann will communicate back with the planners to see what the next steps would include, or if proposal would cost anything. If no costs then we can move forward with proposal plans for WCP and Trout Park.

Kevin suggested adding trees to replace the ones cut down at Trout Park but Kelly said those have been replaced already with red buds. Mary Ann will get the tree people to come out to make suggestions for placement for additional trees for shade.

### **FUTURE PROJECTS –**

This is in regards to a previous discussion with the town manager to classify projects as being either small or large, for when we are requesting POS money. Kevin suggested that the Town Commissioners should be the ones to determine what the values should be for a small versus large project. Mary Ann will confer with them.

There was discussion about shade sails at Trout Park, although trees may be better option.

Acquisition money is desired for purchase of the 2-acre lot behind the bowling alley. It would be a way to connect Old Town Walkersville and Mill Run to WCP with a path. There is no sidewalk or shoulder for pedestrians to otherwise safely walk to WCP. Dave will present and make a recommendation to the Town Commissioners at next weeks meeting. The land is currently designated as agricultural and is owned by a Ausherman. There is another business that is interested in purchasing that plot and if they purchase it, it would have to be rezoned for business.

Kevin clarified that large projects of interest on our list currently include a dog park and skate park and small projects include foot golf, shade sails, benches/tables, and trees.

### **KELLY WOODS REPORT –**

Bathroom buildings have had shingles replaced on their roofs at both HFP and WCP. Vandalism continued in these bathrooms but they are closed for the season now. The port-a-pot we voted to put in place at WCP has been installed. It's been about two weeks and so far not being vandalized.

Anna pointed out that the basketball net at WCP is ripped but Kelly said that they are hard to replace because it's a specific type of net that is hard to find online. She also pointed out that the mulch is in bad shape around the swings and the spinner, but that will be redone in the spring.

### **COMMISSIONER CONCERNS –**

Dave asked about getting emails created for parks commissioners so the community can more easily contact us. Ashley Bailey is working on this.

Kevin wanted clarification regarding the park use form for big events or activities. That what is required includes GVAA signature in advance and attendance at a parks meeting before an

event is to take place. And where necessary the organizer would provide additional port-a-pots and trash receptacles and maybe even traffic controls. Mary Ann suggested toilet paper also.

Kevin also would like us to reconsider foot golf at HFP. It is a small project with minimal cost and minimal impact on traffic and therefore would not require the second entrance/exit to be installed before being added.

### **ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm was made by Dave, and seconded by Anna. Approved by all. Next meeting will be February 1, 2023.