

WALKERSVILLE PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2023

In Attendance: Jay Lochner (Commission Chair), David Toohey, Mark Pecor, Anna Newman, Kitty Baker, Kevin Conley and Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis (Commission Liaison). Also present were Ashley Bailey (Communications Specialist) and Kelly Woods (Parks Maintenance).

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jay. The September meeting minutes were motioned to be approved by Anna and seconded by Mark. All in favor.

HERITAGE PLAYGROUND

We were given \$120,000 POS monies but this is not enough funds to complete the project. Mary Ann asked the committee to think about what they want to include on the playground (the existing swings will remain) and discuss at the November meeting. Poured in place will be the ground surface.

COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS

These plots at HFP need to be cleared/cleaned up by renters by October 31. If not, we will not rent to those citizens next year. There are 26 garden plots total. In the past ½ of them needed cleaned off. J&J is scheduled to haul away garden waste on November 2nd.

There is a waiting list for these plots. The order of priority is past renters (who have complied), then the waiting list and priority given to Walkersville residents

TREE PLANTING AT TROUT PARK

This occurred on September 30 and Mary Ann stated it went well, was a successful day. Three commission members were there, Anna, Mark and David. In total, 26 trees were planted and Kelly has kept up with the watering. There was a ceremony, presentation and reception at Heritage following the planting.

HERITAGE PAVING

POS monies were received to redo the paths at Heritage. There was extra money and the town staff made the decision to extend and put in new paths. All the funds will be used up.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

- This annual event will be held at Creamery Park on Wednesday, December 6 at 7:00. David will contact Glamourview Creamery about the cost of cups of hot chocolate. Discussion ensued about the handing out of tickets.
- Kitty will order the cookies from Safeway, purchase bags to serve them and candy canes to give to Santa on the firetruck to hand out. An ingredient lid from each variety of cookies will be available to view if any questions about cookie ingredients.
- Anna will e-mail town churches, the high school band and chorus and other last year participants. She will include a response date of November 1 so we can discuss at our next meeting.
- David brought up the idea of having the evening performers use the basketball court area for better viewing of the event. After a discussion, it was decided this would be difficult to orchestrate (lighting, running of cords, etc.).
- Mary Ann will contact Bob Sussman to see if he is willing and available to give the Hanukkah presentation. She will also contact the library to see if any activities are planned ahead of the tree lighting on December 6 for the children.
- We will finalize all plans at our November meeting.

GVAA REPORT

Michelle Fyock, GVAA President, was absent but provided an e-mail with the following updates:

- Fall sports are ongoing and winter basketball registration is up and running. Wrestling is coming soon.
- GVAA had wonderful youth nights for cheerleading and soccer. Football (again) was not invited to participate in a youth night type of event.
- Football, cheerleading, softball and baseball all marched in the Homecoming Parade last week. She felt it was a great presentation of the GVAA program.
- Michelle spoke to the commissioners about AED's and asked them to discuss the idea with their leadership. Individual sports will then determine their best path forward in terms of location, type and funding for additional AED's.

KELLY'S REPORT

- Two benches have been installed by Creamery basketball court.
- Two memorial benches were installed at HFP.
- Glade Elementary had their Back-to-School night in September. There were many cars with overflow parking at HFP. He was concerned about the safety of crossing Devilbiss

Bridge Road. In the past, the school was supposed to notify town hall of large events and then troopers are booked. Ashley will discuss this with Sean Williams, town manager, and this protocol will be followed from here forward.

- The parking lot at Community Park has been extended. The backstop and old benches by the ballfield (off the tennis courts) should be removed. The commission gave their consent.
- Two basketball nets were fixed at Community Park.
- Tennis nets were fixed.
- The soccer goal has broken wheels and the mower personnel cannot move with the heaviness.
- The sand digger costs \$1500 to fix. It was decided this was too expensive and tabled this for now.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

- Kitty – An e-mail went out to our commission about the possibility of adding emergency signs to our main parks. These signs would provide longitude/latitude coordinates to direct the emergency equipment right to the subject needing help. Kitty talked to Jeremy Heflin (works at Frederick Fire Rescue) at the Sunday Club 24 Banquet and he stated that the county parks are considering this and are in the initial phase. Mary Ann will inquire about this at the next County Parks meeting.
- Anna – Walked the new loop at Community Park and stated how nice it was.
- Kevin – Addressed the 9/15/23 e-mail that Sean sent out from Bob Hicks, Frederick County. To summarize, Rabbi Brenner is an advocate for installing Bankshot Systems on either a new or renovated basketball court. A \$10,000 grant was offered. Markers are placed on the court and offer inclusion that a non-running ball playing sport achieves scored as uniting the community at a strikingly attractive play amenity. Kevin inquired further about the cost of the system and 16 stations cost \$40,000. Poles and steel costs (\$5K) are not included. The commission tabled this for now due to cost and lack of space to install.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Paige-Maree Woods handed out pictures of her completed Free Library including books and games. It was installed at Community Park mid-September and she thanked the Parks board, NZ Cramer (donated all supplies), her Uncle Jeremy and her father. She will periodically check the box for supplies and to straighten it up. Mary Ann brought up the idea of advertising the box on Facebook and Paige and her parents agreed to this.
- Ron Layman talked about the progress on the Manor House at Heritage. The basement under the kitchen is finished. The progress is “slow but getting there”. The Walkersville

Historical Society is hosting a Ghosts Oddities and Morbidities Tour on Sunday, October 29 at 4:00 and wants to go through the house with a medium and incorporate this into the tour.

- The Marine Corp League will be hosting a Santa visit for the community in the Manor House in November and December. Ron hopes the side porch will be completed by then to use.
- There is a “weed patch” area by the Manor House. Kelly was asked to dig out the area and level is off.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. Motioned by Mark and seconded by Anna. All in favor.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 1, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Sincerely,

Kitty Baker