

## WALKERSVILLE PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

April 5, 2023

In Attendance: Jay Lochner (Commissioner Chair), Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis (Commissioner Liaison), David Toohey, Anna Newman, Kevin Conley and Kitty Baker. Patricia Rowley was absent. 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 March meeting minutes were motioned to be approved by Kitty, seconded by Kevin and approved by all.

### **PARKS RELATED REQUEST**

Kelly Eakin and her two sons, Bryce and James (7 ½ years old) gave a detailed presentation of ideas for an inclusive (all kids usage) playground. The Heritage smaller playground will be replaced and these ideas were very helpful. It was decided that their requests would be taken into consideration; lower interactive equipment, poured in place surface (easier for wheelchairs), ramps (not steps) to be used. Mary Ann will look at catalogs to incorporate their ideas when this gets to the design phase.

James Kelly presented that GVAA would like to install electric to their press box. GVAA will fund this and the work will be performed by D&D Drilling and Coblenz Electric. He wants permission to proceed with this project. Communication has been made with public works and the permits will be obtained from the county.

The shed needs painted and resided.

Clean up the GVAA bricks on the hill. Repaint. Mary Ann mentioned a possibility of a message board.

Six thousand dollars has been spent on the football field. It was surfaced with a new top soil, limed and reseeded.

Requests approval to lock the gates to keep persons from walking their dogs in this area (has 3 sides fenced already). Dog feces litters the grass and needs picked up regularly. This is a safety and health hazard. Combination locks were approved, Sean and the troopers will have access.

All the above was motioned to be approved by Anna, seconded by David and approved by all.

Requests to set up hard traps to catch groundhogs. This was deferred.

### **PLAYGROUND AT HERITAGE**

This is in reference to the smaller playground by Frisbee golf. The town commissioners voted to replace with town monies (not POS). Will be made inclusive with poured in place surface. Mary Ann will research to include a combination of regular and all-inclusive equipment.

### **POS INFORMATION**

#### **- DOG PARK**

Kevin gave a detailed report with handouts from Long Fence, Armor Fence and Frederick Fence Co. It was decided to proceed with the location at Heritage Farm Park (by/at the previous mulch area). The surface will be grass or mulch, include a large dog (over 30#) area and a small dog (under 30#) area with an adjoining entrance fence. Items to be considered/priced are the fence, bench(s), path, water and waste disposal cans/bags. In the future, possible agility equipment could be purchased.

This grant is due May 6. Will need to be put out for bid/advertise. For now, it can be used by anyone and "see how it goes" (whether a key card would be advantageous).

Motion to approve was made by Kevin and seconded by Anna. All approved with one abstention.

#### **- FOOT GOLF**

Kevin stated that GVAA will make a \$1,000 contribution to this.

Kevin provided a detailed possible design for this.

Discussion ensued as to whether a 3- hole course would be sufficient. This would proceed quicker with no approval (@\$2500 for all). The commission was in agreement that a 9-hole course would be more desired. Kevin will

discuss with Chad Weddle, Burgess. Will try to proceed without POS monies to get built sooner.

David questioned Mary Ann about land acquisition. She stated the Commissioners voted to get appraisals for land at this time.

### **TREES – HERITAGE**

McClintock planted 65 trees on March 31, 2023. Anna Twigg is the new area's tree expert. There were around 25-30 persons planting. Twenty more trees will arrive and be planted at Trout Park on April 17, 2023. Contact Ryan, maintenance, if interested in assisting with this planting.

### **GVA**

Laura Lebo, Treasurer, reported in the absence of Michelle.

A detailed treasurer's report was recently submitted and appreciated.

The annual election has taken place: Michelle Fyock- Pres, Brian Raub- VP, Laura Lebo-Treasurer and Michelle Geouge- Secretary.

Spring sports are well under way. There has been an increase in participants which has increased the funding.

Kevin questioned whether GVA should present their report earlier on the agenda at our meetings. They will communicate if this is a desire.

### **KELLY WOODS REPORT**

The fish equipment at Trout Park should arrive May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The gardens are tilled at Heritage and the new posts/markers are up.

A large limb fell off a tree at Creamery Park with the strong winds and has been cleaned up (along with many other limbs/sticks in the parks).

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Ron Layman wants the Commission to remember the Scouts are always looking for projects to complete with Eagle Projects. This needs to be considered with benches for the proposed dog park. Also, possibly covered benches to assist with sun/weather protection should be considered.

The basement floor of the Manor House has had ½ of its' surface concrete poured.

All lights have been replaced with LED's.

May 6, 2023 is the Aria remembrance ceremony.

### **MARY ANN REPORT**

Two new signs will be put up at Creamery Park.

Two new forms have been generated, The Memorial Bench Flyer and the Memorial Tree Program. These are available at town hall to be filled out.

With the tree program, it is through Barrick's Garden Center. The donor notifies Chad Barrick, picks out a designated tree and works directly with Chad.

### **COMMISSION ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS**

David – questioned who owns the land behind the carnival grounds. It was said it was the towns.

Kevin – would like to plant 6-8 ft Arborvitae trees within the soccer fields to help with shade, provide a windbreak and separate the existing fields. He talked with Chad Barrick who suggested single stream trees that would be more durable. Kelly will discuss with our yard service to see if this adds cost. With the other recent tree plantings, we need to be attuned to this. All costs for the tree will be funded by GVAA. Also, Kevin would like to add posts to mark the fields, either on the shed or nets. This will be pursued.

At 8:45 p.m. the meeting was motioned to be adjourned by Anna, seconded by Kevin and all approved.

Sincerely,

Kitty Baker

