

WALKERSVILLE PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
September 6, 2023

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jay. The August meeting minutes were motioned to be approved by Anna and seconded by Kevin. All in favor with Mary Ann abstaining.

PARKS USAGE REQUESTS

- Homeschool Soccer – Lori Keifer requested use of Heritage Park soccer fields from September 19 - November 21 for the homeschoolers. They will line the fields. Kevin will discuss further with Lori about the October 21 or 22 reseeding of the fields. Motion to approve made by Kevin, seconded by Mark and approved by all.

- Patrick Keyser, who owns land east and south of Glade Creek (Heritage Park) is working with Anna Twigg, DNR, and has enrolled in a state tree planting program. The trees will be planted by contractors on his land, but he is requesting access to his land through part of the park for the contractors to get their equipment into the planting area. Once planted, the state will maintain for the first three years; mowing three times the first year and two times in years two and three. Jay requested it be brought to the commissioners for review/action; Mary Ann requested that Mr. Keyser submit a write up of what will be done to town hall front office, with copies for her and Jay.

- Soccer Field Approval Plan – Kevin (parks commissioner and GVAA). Kevin walked the HFP fields and took soil samples to evaluate the current field conditions. Fields 2 and 3 will be closed for the year the third weekend of October, no games or practices allowed. The fields will be aerated, over seeded and fertilized. By March, 2024, the fields will be reopened. The last field will then be worked as above and all accomplished in the same year.
- Approximately 300 soccer players are using the fields. New benches have been added. There will be a tournament the first weekend in November. GVAA will be using a grass field at Utica, not lighted. GVAA would like to take two soccer goals and setup a temporary field across from the batting cages/golf course for two weeks for training Monday-Friday; no lines will be painted. Mary Ann mentioned that this may be in a flood area. David asked if there was any room anywhere in the park for an additional field(s) to be added permanently.

TREE PLANTING/TROUT PARK

This will be held on Saturday, September 30th at 9:00. Troop 1011 will help plant the 26 trees that are in 5-15 gallon buckets. The trees will be delivered earlier in the week. Kelly is aware an auger is needed to dig the holes (to be completed the day before, on Friday). There will be a flag ceremony led by Troop 1011 as well as a brief program/talk by the Maryland Federal Garden Club/grant program, which is paying for the trees. After the planting, there will then be refreshments at HFP big pavilion (around 10:30). Mary Ann invited the local county councilman to attend. Several trucks are requested: Chad (Burgess) will provide a town truck; Anna, Dave Ennis and Dave Toohey also have trucks as needed. Trees will be picked up at the water plant at 8:30.

GVAA COMMENTS/UPDATES

- Michelle Fyock, GVAA President, said that the fall sports were in full swing.
- Winter basketball registration is open, but filling up quickly! The football teams are sponsoring a Ravens autograph signing/meet and greet with Pat Ricard at Rosie Cheeks Distillery (Rt. 194/Woodsboro) on Monday, September 18 at 700 pm. In addition to buying an autograph from Mr. Ricard, other merchandise will be available for sale.
- At the first GVAA football game, there was a grease fire in the snack building that required the fire department to be called to extinguish. No details were provided. Fire extinguishers were used but not successful.
- Michelle read an email/letter from one of the baseball coaches that detailed how a 10 year old was hit in the chest by a line drive; he was fine but the coach was emphasizing that a trauma such as this, especially with kids, could cause cardiac arrest. His request was for AEDs to be placed in the park by the town for their (GVAA) use. A discussion ensued, with suggestions of at least two AEDs be accessible by the coaches in a central location with the optimum being one per sport; possibly store one at the WZ building and one at the practice shed. Questions arose as to the LI-ON battery life, temperature affect, storage locations, service/maintenance. Mary Ann requested the email from Michelle. The cost was not determined, but would be in the \$1000+ range. David mentioned that if purchased, it would be helpful to get training from the rescue company.

KELLY COMMENTS

Kelly was absent.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

David

- Proposed moving the wagon wheel golf sign to the soccer golf area after having it refurbished.
- New trail at Community Park needs a name.
- Evaluate the bulletin board at HFP, is it used or not, if not, remove it.
- Field 5/Orley Bourland field, infield is overgrown.
- He has ideas for the December Christmas tree lighting at Creamery Park. This will be discussed at the October meeting.

Kevin

- He received quotes for soccer golf signs from Shannon-Baum; 12"x12" aluminum, \$198 for all the holes. A larger sign (detailed and sandblasted), 36"x48" aluminum would cost \$1900 and sans installation cost.
- The QR code on the signs for information is still being discussed.
- With \$2100 total for signage, should the town be asked for more funds? If not, soccer can cover. Mary Ann will discuss with Chad and Sean and communicate the outcome to Kevin.
- Foot golf is installed but just need the signage covered.
- Questioned if WHS coaches could use HFP for practices. There have also been joint activities at the park with GVAA and the high school. How could this happen in the future, what is the process to proceed? Jay stated that he felt that if the high school desires a field for their use, they would need to proceed like any other outside user (Parks Use Form and present insurance). If an activity is in coordination with GVAA, that would be acceptable since GVAA was aware. Kevin questioned if WHS could just use their blanket insurance for HFP use without the full process. Jay and Mary Ann said this needs to be discussed with the Commissioners.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.
Motioned by Kevin and seconded by Mark. All in favor.
The next meeting will be held October 4th and might include a group picture.
Shirts have been ordered and hopefully will arrive by this meeting.

Sincerely,

Kitty Baker