

## **WALKERSVILLE PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

April 6, 2022

A group picture was taken by Ashley Bailey outside of town hall.

At 7:00, the meeting was called to order by Jay Lochner, Chairman. In attendance were Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, David Toohey, Patricia Rowley, Anna Newman, Artie Fauble and Kitty Baker. Commissioner Mike McNeish was present. Kelly Woods was also present along with Ashley Bailey, Media Specialist.

### **JOE BIRCH – PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR**

Joe is interested in establishing set park hours so he can properly train/inform the new park attendees of their responsibilities. He suggested summer hours as: April 1 – October 31 from 7:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. And winter hours as: November 1 – March 31 from 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. After discussion, it was first suggested to winter closing hours to 6:00 p.m. so more practice could be held.

Discussed ensued again and it was motioned by Anna to have summer hours as March 15 – November 14 from 7 a.m. – 9 p.m. and winter hours as November 15 – March 14 from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. This motion was seconded by Artie. All approved with 1 abstaining who was Patricia.

### **PROJECT OPEN SPACE GRANT**

This was presented by Mary Ann. She received an e-mail from Frederick County stating that there is two million dollars available. Of this amount, the municipalities can share one million dollars. As far as our wants at this time, we have talked about extending the paths at Community Park.

Other ideas that would need more thorough research and planning are a track and field area, a pump track and a dog park. More ideas need to be suggested by the townspeople. There is new playground equipment in the works for Creamery Park.

### **MANOR HOUSE AGREEMENT – TOWN AND BOY SCOUTS**

An agreement needs to be drawn up about the usage of the Manor House between the town and the Boy Scouts. It was questioned if an old agreement between the town and GVAA exists. Mary Ann will check on this.

Some points to ponder are: utility expense, hours and responsibilities.

On 4/7/22, Sean Williams sent out an e-mail to Parks members that was actually written on 1/26/22 and sent to the Burgess and Commissioners with a CC to Ron Layman. He stated there are several items that will need to be decided. Items are listed in no particular order

1. Will the town continue to provide all utilities for the Manor House at no cost?
2. The agreement will limit use of the building to only the ground floor and second floor. The basement and third floors will not be used by the Scouts.
3. Modification requests to the building will be made at Parks Meetings, but funding requests should be approved by Burgess and Commissioners. Major modifications would require permits when needed.
4. The draft version of the agreement is copied from the Whitmore-Zimmerman User agreement. Would Burgess and Commissioners prefer this be reviewed by Town attorney and potentially rewritten?

It was decided to proceed further with this discussion at our May meeting.

### **WHITMORE-ZIMMERMAN BUILDING USAGE**

GVAA has exclusive use of the building through the end of this month. A facility use agreement has tentatively been drawn up. Discussion ensued as to if this building usage is opened up to the community (Senior Center, birthday parties, etc.), should there be fees attached? Should GVAA be charged to use the building?

Artie felt that GVAA should be granted exclusive use of the building because that was the original intent. Mike McNeish, commissioner, stated that there is a plaque on the building stating it was purchased with some Open Space Funds and the community should have usage based on how it was financed.

Mary Ann recommended that GVAA has exclusive use until June 1, 2022. Anna motioned, David seconded and all approved.

It was stated that with the storage units, GVAA does need to have the ability to access it at any time.

### **PARKS USE REQUESTS**

#### **1. UNIFIED COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS**

This was presented by Jeredy Vijil, 5736 Industry Lane, Frederick, MD. They have a house on Albany Avenue for some of their residents. She requests use of Community Park for an egg hunt on Easter Monday, April 18 from 10:00 – 12:00. There will be @ 50 people in attendance, including adults and some wheelchairs. It was suggested to use the basketball court with the grass surrounding. Another possibility would be the pavilion area. All paperwork presented. Patricia motioned to approve, David seconded and all approved.

#### **2. BOOGIE BEARS TRIATHLON (LOYUAA)**

This was presented by Steve Hartman, 6936 Meadowlake Road, New Market, MD. He is requesting use of Heritage Farm Park by the disc golf course to use April 1 – Aug 31 for a kids' triathlon club practice. Ages 6-15. They want to utilize the paths for running and biking. All paperwork was presented. Anna motioned, David seconded. Four members accepted with two opposed. It was then approved.

### 3. KEY CITY FOUNDATION

Chris Stack requests use of Heritage Park on July 9/July 10, 2022 for the use of a kick-it event on two soccer fields. They would need open space for vendors also. There would be @ 500 players with @ 250-300 cars. This is a National Organization and Key City is the host. Players from surrounding counties would be involved.

This was tabled until the May meeting because an insurance certificate was missing.

Addendum – Mike McNeish researched this organization more in depth and sent an e-mail out to this commission. 500 kids = 167 teams. Each team pays \$225 to enter netting \$37,575. Mike also checked out other local parks/fields and they are available, so there are other options for this event. Also, he sites parking/safety concerns at Heritage.

### **SCOUT EAGLE PROJECT – PAUL JOHNSON**

This is the bridge building at Community Park. Paul presented a final project drawing and hopes to begin in May. He hopes to gets supplies donated (Lowe's, NZ Cramer) and/or fundraising. Paul wondered if the town would possibly help fund. Mary Ann suggested to talk with the Burgess further about this. Paul will e-mail a copy of the plans to Joe Birch (responsible for pouring the footers) and Mary Ann.

### **REQUEST FOR CRICKET FIELD**

Two gentlemen requested (once again) a cricket field be built at one of our parks. This would require concrete and Astroturf. Mowing is a concern. Walkersville residents are not involved in the request or play. Jay told the men "not at this time."

### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUESTIONS/CONCERNS/COMMENTS:**

Kitty Baker – With the multiple requests for the use of our parks (mainly Heritage) for tournaments, events, fundraisers, it seems that a fee should be applied to the

requests. Overuse is largely due to great facilities with no charge. Many requests do not have a majority of Walkersville residents participating.

**KELLY WOODS –**

1. The bathrooms at the parks were opened on Friday.
2. The water fountains are on.
3. American Legion used field 5 last week and a pile of debris including metal was left for removal. There has been a lot of trash left on the field that maintenance needs to pick up.
4. The gardens were tilled.
5. Sod was in trashcans. This is too heavy. Michelle will address.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

Pat Kaiser owns an adjacent property to Heritage on Glade Road. At the creek on hole #6, there are two downed trees. He would like to remove and keep the wood. There is also a dilapidated fence around the curve. He wants permission to clean this up. Mary Ann requested his e-mail address. Perhaps they could meet with Kelly at the above locations to discuss the next step.

**GVAA – MICHELLE FYOCK**

Spring sports have begun.

A permit has been given to remove the transformer.

Mike Fyock is stepping down as soccer commissioner. Kelly was informed that the town needs to mow this area now.

Appreciate the water being turned on for opening day.

The four elected officers are the same:

- Michelle Fyock – President
- Brittany Sheets – V. President
- Laura Lebo – Treasurer
- Amanda Bowen – Secretary

Asked if the Usage Agreement with the Whitmore-Zimmerman building needs updated with the change in hours.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45. Artie motioned and Patricia seconded. All approved. The next Parks Commission meeting will be held on May 4, 2022.

Sincerely,  
Kitty Baker