

WALKERSVILLE PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 3, 2022

The August meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Jay Lochner, Commission Chair. In attendance were board members: Jay Lochner, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis (Commissioner Liaison), David Toohey, Patricia Rowley and Kitty Baker. Kelly Woods was also present. Absent was Anna Newman and newly elected member Kevin Conley (conley19@comcast.net). There was no July meeting due to the annual carnival.

The June minutes were motioned to be approved by David, seconded by Kitty. All approved.

PARK USE APPLICANTS

- Home School Soccer Group – Lori Keifer. Wishes to use a field at Heritage from September 15 – November 17 on Thursdays from 2:50 – 4:30. Has gotten GVAA approval. Should be on the average of 150 players. Lori mentioned they donate \$4 per player per year. Kelly wanted Lori to be aware that the bathrooms might be closed in November. Motioned to be approved by Patricia, seconded by David and all approved.
- Boys/Girls Cross Country – Marissa Hombach. Wishes to use Community Park on Tuesday, September 20 from 3:30 – 6:00 as part of their course. There should be @ 30-40 kids. They will run the perimeter of the park so should not interfere with the walking paths. Flags, cones, markers, line paint (on grass) will be used. Volunteers will be at the gate and interspersed around the course for safety. This was motioned to be approved by Kitty, seconded by Pat and all approved.
- Mason-Dixon Baseball Experience – Phil Grobe. Looking for fields for this newly formed team to use. Maryland and Pennsylvania players. Thinking this fall and into 2023. Per Jay, Phil needs to contact GVAA and fill out appropriate forms. He will return to the October meeting to further discuss.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Advocate Skate Park group – The main person for this is Ian Baer who lives in Discovery but was ill. So, it was presented by Daniel Colbert, 1820 Greenleese Drive and others. Feels a skate park is needed for the safety of those interested in this sport. Per Mary Ann's questions, there are @ 100 kids and adults who would benefit daily from a park. Thurmont has a new skate park but only has use for one person at a time. Waynesboro is better with a three person usage. A mother of a skateboarder stated this is "this group's social network" and it would benefit them greatly to have a safe place to congregate and form relationships. Mary Ann related the expense – Thurmont's came at a cost of \$63,000. Mary Ann suggested to this group (@8 present) that they should do a petition with name/address, and specifically designating Walkersville residents.

She stated all of this takes time and May 2023 is the next P.O.S. money to be received. Of this grant, 75% gets paid but the 25% remaining needs paid for by the municipality. The skate board interested parties were to give their names and contact information to the newspaper representatives at tonight's meeting.

UPDATE ON CREAMERY PARK

The equipment recommended has been ordered, with a couple of changes to the first draft of equipment. A deposit has been sent. Total cost is @ \$318,000. The installation will be coordinated with Jim Birch and Sean Williams. Getting "poured in place" with timber boards (concrete border was quite costly). After installation of equipment, the basketball court upgrade will be performed, sidewalks poured and gates installed. Projected completion hopefully will be in October 2022.

UPDATE P.O.S. 2023 – Mary Ann gave a report that approved were new metal roofs for bathrooms at Community and Heritage parks. Also, there was approval for the extension of the walking path at Community Park (need to be aware of sewer easement).

LPPI GRANT FUNDS – Mary Ann reported the funding for sunshades at Community and Heritage parks. The walking paths at Heritage will be redone. Also, plan to extend the parking lot at Community Park (by the tennis courts) for 20 additional parking spaces.

TOWN INTEREST SURVEY

This was orchestrated by Ashley Bailey. There were 148 citizen responses as far as possible new amenities and infrastructure. Top requests were a dog park, update bathrooms at the parks, Skateboard Park, soccer golf and misters. Mary Ann e-mailed all parks commission members the specific results.

Mary Ann attended the Covid Memorial dedication at Utica Park. She talked with a Frederick County parks rep and has his information to get his input on future plans for our parks.

KELLY WOODS REPORT

- 400 bags of rubber tire mulch was added to Community Park
- The speed bump is in place on Kenneth Drive and is painted yellow and black.
- Bushes were pruned
- Still awaiting the part for the tube playset at Trout Park.

- A garden plot user recommended new posts/numbers on the plots. He also recommended frost-free spigots. Approval for the posts/numbers was motioned to be approved by Mary Ann and seconded by Patricia. Approved by all. The frost-free spigots were tabled at this time.

GVAA – Report by Laura Lebo, 223 Solar Drive. Is the GVAA Treasurer

- There are 642 athletics enrolled in fall sports. Soccer has the largest with over 200. Football ranks a close second. Some sports are still open for registration.
- The press box is being installed.
- A pep rally will be held on August 18th.
- Games begin on August 27th.
- GVAA has scholarships available for those who cannot afford to otherwise participate.
- The updated W-Z building usage form has not been received by GVAA. Mary Ann will address this issue.

COMMISSION CONCERNS

David Toohey – questions how the new rail trail will affect the parks. Mary Ann said that Phase 1 will have no effect.

Patricia Rowley – excited about the blinking solar cross walk lights/signs around town. Also brought up about the possibility of a new track/field being built at one of our parks. Discussion ensued about the possibility is doubtful.

Kitty Baker – Stated she has Kevin’s e-mail address and phone number. The e-mail is provided in the beginning of these minutes. Also, the Back to School Supplies Distribution is Sunday, Aug 7 from 11:00 – 2:00 at the W-Z building. This was seen on Facebook.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20. Motioned by Pat, seconded by David and approved by all. The next meeting will be September 7th.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Baker
Secretary