

Walkersville Parks Commission Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2024
Walkersville Town Hall

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jay.
2. Approval of January minutes: Kevin made a motion to approve, David seconded the motion, all approved.
3. GVAA Report (Michelle Fyock)
 - a. In the middle of winter sports, and spring sport registrations are open (practices start mid-March).
 - b. GVAA is going to be at WES Spring Fling event and possibly the other two elementary schools if they hold similar events.
 - c. Board elections next month; all four offices and four board positions are up for election, so please spread the word to any interested.
4. Park Use Requests
 - a. Summer Solstice 8k (Blessings in a Backpack–Alex Young): Frederick Steeplechasers operate the event; evening of June 15 (7PM start from Fire Hall, through town, around Heritage and back.) 300-400 runners estimated. They always need volunteers, and proceeds go to Blessings in a Backpack, which sends food home with kids in need all over the county. Kevin made a motion to approve; Kitty seconded the motion; motion passed.
 - b. Mid-Maryland Baseball Camp (Allen Haines): July 1-4, 8:30AM-12PM, boys and girls ages 5-12, at Heritage. Kelly said there was an issue with a man from the baseball camp last year, particularly over the use of the pavilion; didn't know his name. Allen said to please call him if anything happens this year. Mark made a motion to approve; Kevin seconded the motion; motion passed.
 - c. Homeschool Soccer Group (Lori Keifer): Asking to use Heritage Park soccer fields on Thursdays 2:50-4:30, April 4-May 23. GVAA has signed off on this. Kitty brought up safety concerns with children crossing the road, etc. Lori said that all parents stay with their children so they should be supervised. Kevin made a motion to approve; Mark seconded the motion; motion passed.
 - d. Burn Boot Camp (Kimberly Csajko): Family Fun Run at Community Park, April 20th, 9AM-12PM (race starting at 10AM); about 100 runners expected. Mary Ann said that any marks on the path must be chalk; paint can be used on grass. David made a motion to approve; Mark seconded the motion; motion passed.

5. Foot Golf Final Information (Kevin Conley):
 - a. Course has seen some use
 - b. All signage now installed
 - c. Eagle Scout Cole Qualls will come back soon to get his project signed off

6. Astronomy and Garden Events (Dave Toohey):
 - a. Didn't hear back from Tri-County Astronomy club, so he contacted the Westminster astronomy club; no answer yet.
 - b. Mary Ann contacted the Master Gardeners about a gardening program; no answer there yet either. She may try contacting another group, like WHS FFA.

7. Kelly Woods' Report
 - a. Playground inspection: New playground at Community needs some work; hopefully under warranty. Pole rusting on old swing set at Community; they are going to rip that out.
 - b. Picnic tables at Heritage and Creamery got repainted; will need new tables soon.
 - c. Whitmore-Zimmerman building bathrooms are trashed after wrestling practices; asked Michelle to contact wrestling coaches about this.
 - d. Old play area at Heritage has lots of issues and needs to be completely replaced soon. Mary Ann said we got \$120,000 in POS funds and have the means to get the remaining funds needed, but we are still waiting for it to go out to bid. Jay said we might need to rip it out now if it's a safety issue—all agreed.
 - e. Someone tried to cut netting on new Creamery playground and porta pot was burned at Creamery.

8. Manor House Update (Roy Layman)
 - a. Asks if we could put a sign in front of Manor House (as a scout project); maybe "The Historic Manor House at Heritage Farm Park". If a scout is interested, they will come talk with us.
 - b. Second part of basement should be poured soon.
 - c. Rewiring of the house is underway.

9. Commissioner Concerns
 - a. Dave: a neighbor suggested collaborating with Fountain Rock Park to organize nature walks.
 - b. No other commissioner concerns.

10. Adjourn
 - a. Mark made a motion to adjourn; Kitty seconded the motion; all approved.
 - b. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45PM.
 - c. Next meeting is Wednesday, March 6 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Newman