

WALKERSVILLE PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 3, 2024

In Attendance: Jay Lochner (Commission Chair), Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis (Commission Liaison), David Toohey, Mark Pecor, Anna Newman and Kitty Baker. Kevin Conley 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. "Happy New Year" was stated by Jay. The November meeting minutes were motioned to be approved by Mark, seconded by Anna. All in favor.

PARK USE REQUEST

Dave Shannon requests the use of Heritage Farm Park for the FC Frederick Scrimmage Fest. This soccer tournament will be held March 16 and 17 with @ 200-250 athletes participating. GVAA players will not be charged. All trash will be carried out, fields will be lined and port-a-pots used. There were no parking issues in the past. Kitty read the Kevin e-mail about same. Dave will fill out Parks Use Form. This was motioned to be approved by Kitty, seconded by Mark. All in favor.

DISCUSSION TREE LIGHTING 2023

This event just gets bigger and better attended each year. Heaters were used this year. No complaints with GlamourView; the lines moved quickly. Walkersville Historical Society was a good addition. Ashley stated that a different sound system would be beneficial. Also, elevating the performers would be helpful (better to hear and see). It was questioned if the order of the program should be changed since the 8:00 Santa arrival is too late for the children. Bob Sussman, who told the Hanukkah story, suggested speakers be added to the outside of the pavilion.

TREE LIGHTING FOR 2024, POSSIBLE MOVE

Anna mentioned that the Calvary Assembly Church would like to participate next year...she has the contact information.

Mary Ann mentioned the possibility of moving the event to Heritage. Several negatives mentioned were that the tree is at Creamery, the library plays a

significant role in the evening and the public can walk to the event at Creamery Park.

Jay mentioned that Glade Road and Pennsylvania Avenue could be closed at the stop signs temporarily for better parking and safety.

The possibility of the use of a hay wagon to elevate performers was suggested.

This would work well except for the bells, which could stay under the pavilion.

David questioned if the event could be mainstreamed. Ashley said this is possible but would be difficult.

ASTRONOMY AT HERITAGE FARM PARK

David Toohey has talked with Katie Thompson at the Walkersville Library about a “Star Party in the Park” by the soccer fields. This could include a presentation with telescopes. The Astronomy Club has been contacted with “no response”.

POSSIBLE PROGRAM WITH THE LIBRARY AND GARDEN CLUB/MASTER GARDENERS

David Toohey mentioned that a program to be held by the garden plots at Heritage could be beneficial to whoever wants to attend. Tips could be given and questions answered. Kelly said it is not possible to expand the plot area.

SHANGRI-LA MARINES SANTA AT MANOR HOUSE IN HERITAGE FARM PARK

Ron Layman said this was well-attended on the two dates, November 26 and Dec 3. There were 111 families in all and 212 items were donated to the Glade Valley Food Bank. The children received toys and food was enjoyed. Mary Ann mentioned the decorations were beautiful and there was even a Boy Scout themed decorated tree.

GARDEN PLOTS – ASHLEY BAILEY

Four plots were paid for but went unused. Ashley wants input on how to proceed since there are eight interested parties on the waiting list. It was decided that a letter should be sent to forewarn these persons of the situation. As far as the waiting list, priority is given first to Walkersville residents. The annual costs are \$40 for a small plot and \$50 for a large plot. Kelly mentioned that all the plots were cleaned off by the renters in 2023.

GVAA – MICHELLE FYOCK

Winter sports are in full gear (basketball, wrestling and baseball winter work outs). Spring registration is open for lacrosse sign-ups, and soccer registration will be later this month.

The annual elections of officers are soon to be held. All categories are open. The board meets at 8:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month.

KELLY'S REPORT

Fifteen new trashcans were made.

The Manor House and HFP bathrooms were pumped out.

Trees were chipped at HFP by the Thom Beckley property. Barrick's accepted the chips.

The foot golf sign just arrived and was put in the brown soccer shed. Kevin is aware.

The "Mommy and Me" swing at Community Park has broken and the pole was removed.

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

David – Should we name the new loop at Community Park? Should there be a mileage sign added?

Mark – No report

Kitty – Her last meeting is this month and she started on commission in 1/06/16. She enjoyed her time on the board and it was nice interacting with members and others that were involved.

Anna – No report

Mary Ann – Kevin is requesting temporary lighting on the football field for ages grade 3 and up from 5:30-7:30. This will also be needed the beginning of spring. Michelle mentioned that the parking lot will also need lit up for safety. It was thought that a minimum, three lights are needed – two for the field and one for the parking lot.

Mary Ann needs to get with the town manager to bid for the new playground at Heritage.

POS monies can be put in at the beginning of May. Think of needs.

Jay mentioned the order of priorities for the Parks are:

New HFP playground equipment – already funded

Community Park to replace the old equipment

Trout Park to upgrade

Discussion also ensued about any acquisition for more land/parks especially on the opposite side of 194. The farm was mentioned at the corner of Crum Road.

The Toms lease was just renewed for same and is done annually. Ideas for this area could be a playground, dog park, skate park, track and a Senior Center.

Anna accepted the secretary job going forward for the commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m. Anna made the motion and seconded by Kitty. All in favor.

The next meeting will be held on February 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Baker