

WALKERSVILLE PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

November 2, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Jay. The October meeting minutes were motioned to be approved by Kitty and seconded by Kevin. Approved by all. Thanks again to Anna for taking the October minutes.

PARK USE REQUESTS –

1. Cheryl Grese, 4719 Caleb Wood Drive, Mt Airy. 240-409-5562.
Operation Paws for Homes Dog Rescue. This is a foster-based program. Requests to hold a 5K – 1 mile race/walk through Heritage Farm Park on Sunday, April 23, 2023 from 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. There should be @ 300 persons with 50 volunteers. Cheryl presented the paperwork and will forward the insurance information in the next week. This request was motioned to be approved by David, seconded by Pat and all in favor.
2. Patrick Kaiser – Glade Road farm bordering hole 7 of disc golf. Would like his 1 acre lot to be mowed due to lost discs from the course. He is willing to pay for the service and/or gas. Mary Ann requested that Patrick call Joe Birch to “talk to him and go from there.”

MANOR HOUSE UPDATE

Ron Layman talked with the Burgess and town manager about the updating being done on the electric and lighting in the house.

There will be an Open House on November 27 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. This is organized through the Marine Corp League and includes Santa. All donations generated will go to the League with a donation to the Manor House.

Upcoming modifications to the house will be the work on the Manor House basement. The main cost will be replacing the concrete flooring; Ron will be contacting the town further in regards to this expense. The rain gardens are installed; the roof has no leaks but requires gutter cleaning.

SKATE PARK

Ian Bair (ianbair01@gmail.com) asked what he could do to get the ball rolling on this. The idea was introduced by a group in August 2022. Ian has started a petition. Mary Ann suggested to Ian to draw up a plan for what could be included, also the requested size. "Create a wish list, so to speak."

PARK USE FORM UPDATE

A main change on the updated request form is the requirement to be turned in the at least two weeks prior to the event. Also, a GVAA signature and position held needs to be included for approval. Other dates on line items added. Also, the application must attend a Parks Commission meeting prior to the event.

Ashley Bailey will update the previously used form with the requested changes and e-mail to all commission members for approval.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT/REQUEST AT CREAMERY PARK

Mary Ann stated it will be spring 2023 until this is installed, due to weather and availability of products needed. Another citizen requested that another pavilion at Creamery be considered. After some discussion, Patricia said to reevaluate the space after the installation of the equipment. All agreed.

BARN ELECTRICITY AT HERITAGE

Joe Birch is meeting with an electrician company as far as the cost.

WHITMORE/ZIMMERMAN BUILDING USAGE

Walkersville Senior Citizens approached the Burgess about using the building for their bi-monthly meetings. They will meet there for a meeting this month to assess the usability. The parking would be easier but no tables/chairs or kitchen facilities are there and would need setup/removed after every meeting for GVAA use. Michelle Fyock also noted the need for trash removal. Further discussion will follow after their trial there.

Mary Ann received an e-mail from a local dance company in regards to renting out the building to them. They now rent a space by Louie's Chicken and Subs Restaurant. This company is "for profit" and it was discussed this would take away from the community for their usage of the building.

TREE LIGHTING – DECEMBER 7, 2022 7:00 AT CREAMERY PARK

David spoke with Glamourview Creamery and they would charge \$3 per cup of hot chocolate, if the town was willing to pay this expense. After discussion, it was decided cookies will be provided and residents may purchase drinks/food from the food truck (hot chocolate, ice cream, sandwiches, etc.). It was suggested that this be communicated to the town residents to prepare for this possible expense.

Anna sent out e-mails/letters to 12 churches. She has had no response as of yet. The marching band and choir will be there. Patricia mentioned that the band boosters are selling Santa hats and wondered if this would be possible to include this evening. Mary Ann said this would be more appropriate at the Walkersville Christ kindle Market.

Mary Ann will contact Bob Sussman about having the Menorah presentation again.

Patricia will put together the order sequence for the evening.

Kitty will order the cookies from Safeway, purchase the napkins and trays for cookies elsewhere. Candy canes were mentioned after the meeting for the fire trucks to hand out to the children. Kelly is the main person to set up for this wonderful town event. Thanks!

GVAA REPORT – MICHELLE FYOCK

- This is the time of the year when most sports are over.
- Parks Use Request Forms were handed in from GVAA wrestling as far as usage of the W/Z building.
- There was an article in the Frederick News Post in the October 13, 2022 issue about our deaf athletes and coaches. This was in regards to the Walkersville Jr. Lions' Pony football team and staff. There were three deaf players on the team and communication was done by American Sign Language.
- Football is in post season play and several teams are advancing into the playoffs. If a team makes it to the Super Bowl, changes will need to be made as far as the closing of the gates and times of practices. This will be needed Nov 15-17, if this comes to fruition. Sean Williams, the Town Manager, was listening to our meeting on-line and said he will discuss above with the park rangers if the need exists.
- Jim Kelly, GVAA, spoke in favor of using solar lights for the parking lots. GVAA spent \$10,000 on rental lights just this past year. The solar pole lights would be @ \$1200-1500 per pole. This has been previously discussed with Mr. Williams and further discussion will pursue.

KELLY WOODS REPORT

There has been vandalism at Community Park in the bathrooms. The paper towel dispenser in both bathrooms and the soap dispenser in the men's have been damaged. Creamery Park had a light fixture broken.

The need to have a port-a-pot at Community Park was discussed. Last year it was pushed over. It was decided to get another this winter at a cost of \$120/month, \$600 until spring. This motion was made by Anna, seconded by Pat and approved by all.

The gardens have been mowed and plowed.

J & J has been called about removing the garden clean off waste. Bags of cleanup/mulch/trash were left in the garden area. This was discussed since it was previously mentioned that this removal should be taken care of by the garden plot renter. Mary Ann will make sure to check on the fee charged from J & J. Fees for the plots are being increased for next year. If removal will be involved again, fees might have to be elevated further for this expense.

MARY ANN REPORT

There will be an upcoming meeting with several parks planners/engineers to discuss our planning for our parks in the future. This will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at 10:30. Meet in the town hall parking lot. Parks to discuss/visit are Community, Heritage, Walker Farm and Trout.

Possible additions are a skate park, dog park, change a couple horseshoe pits at Community to Bocce ball. Perhaps a possible half basketball court at Trout Park and foot golf taking over the existing golf course at Heritage - although the burgess requests another entrance/exit prior to more additions at Heritage.

There were no commissioner concerns. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. was made by Patricia, seconded by Kevin. All voted in favor. Next meeting will be December 7, 2022 at Creamery Park for 7:00 tree lighting.

Sincerely,
Kitty Baker

