

WALKERSVILLE PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2021

Note: This is the first Parks COMMISSION meeting.
This meeting was the first on Facebook Live.

The August meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Jay Lochner, Commission Chair. In attendance were board members: Jay Lochner, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis (Commission Liason), Kelly Woods (Parks Maintenance), Anna Newman, David Toohey, Patricia Rowley and Kitty Baker. Artie Fauble was absent.

The minutes from the June meeting were moved for acceptance by Mary Ann, seconded by Patricia and approved by all. There was no meeting in July due to the Fireman's Carnival.

NEW BUSINESS

Kevin Ryan (9172 Chestnut Grove Road) – DIRTBAGS National Baseball Organization

Mr. Ryan requested the use of Bourland Field #5 at Heritage Park to be used for practice in the fall and possible spring. This is a brand new Babe Ruth higher level team with players aged 13U and 14U, with a total of 25. The goal is baseball development and skills. They would help with GVAA clinics, if asked. Jay suggested he talk with David Kelly from the Legion to work around his games and practices. Park use forms were filled out. Kevin was instructed to e-mail Jay the insurance information. Jay will then e-mail the Commission for a final vote. David Toohey commented, "A great addition."

DOG PARK

Kevin Conley has extensively researched the possibility of having a dog park at one of our Walkersville Parks. Pages of research (mainly with Middletown staff on their dog park specifics) and Fence Co quotes were included. The fencing and gates alone were \$44,000. He also had a petition signed with 325+ signatures. Only 140 were town residents with multiple signers from the same address. Kevin could not attend the meeting but had three persons present to speak on his behalf. Naomi Swinson (9930 Woodsboro Road), Julie Rowan (11113 Dublin Road) and John Pyle (10464 Glade Road); all talked about the need for a dog park and their support of its execution. John also mentioned that a possible agility course would be a plus.

David Ennis (118 Challedon Drive) spoke and stated that Frederick County has several dog parks. These are in Thurmont, Middletown, Ballenger Creek, Frederick City, Urbana and Brunswick. If this would happen in Walkersville, he would like to see it used by Walkersville residents only since the town would be financially supporting it. Note: POS money cannot be used if this would be restricted to Walkersville residents only.

The Commission each in turn stated their thoughts. The general consensus was that our Heritage Park is too busy; not enough parking at Community Park and Creamery Park is too small. Another location would have to be determined. A possibility would be the County Park at Utica. There is more room there and a great location for several towns to benefit.

Mary Ann stated that this board needs to make a recommendation to the Burgess and Commissions in order to proceed further.

Katherine Law and Anne Ricciuti's Caregiver

In June, Anne Ricciuti passed away. She lived two houses away from the Walkersville Park and walked it often and made many memories there. Her daughter, Katherine, and her caregiver wish to put a park bench and tree in her memory. They will front all work and costs for such. A memory plaque will be placed.

They were thinking of either replacing or refurbishing the decrepit bench along the fenced area on the upper trail by the center path. The Commission prefers to

have all memory benches match and can be ordered from a KPark Catalog. Jay suggested keeping memory benches on the perimeter of the new playground equipment and having them match.

Katherine agreed to come to our September meeting and she will then be presented the options on possible benches and trees.

SHANNON AMOS – NEWS JOURNAL

Shannon is from the New Windsor area and is taking over the publication of the Walkersville/Woodsboro Times paper in October. She is visiting local meetings and businesses to introduce herself and talk about her visions. This paper will be distributed in Frederick County. It was suggested that she check out the Thurmont town paper since this is well written and is a great community resource.

GVAA – MIKE FYOCK (GVAA SOCCER COMMISSIONER AND COACH)

Mike is asking approval to use Heritage Park fields for games for Key City Foundation. This is professional coaching and will include four teams, 16 games and eight weeks. The players will be U9 and U11. There are no dates specified since this is in the same league that decides usage. Jay spoke so fondly of Coach Clark with the program. Forms were given. Approval motioned by Kitty, David seconded and approved by all.

There has been huge GVAA registration. Mike plans to purchase more dirt since there are greater funds. There will be no FC ScrimFest and he is not initiating any tournaments to give the fields a rest.

GVAA – MICHELLE FYOCK (PRESIDENT GVAA)

Thanks for taking the fence down since football is practicing there now.

There was great communication (some minor glitches) with the town with the conversion out of the Manor House and into the new Whitmore-Zimmerman building.

Fall sports are open and are happening now.

The July GVAA meeting was attended by Commissioner Michael Bailey. He now has greater insight on the way GVAA is run. The meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 8:00 p.m. (in-person or Zoom).

Considering putting AED's at the park, however, not sure where they should be located in order to prevent theft or breakage. They need to be readily available when an emergency arises. Possibilities include one for each sport and kept in their individual shed or inside pavilions. More research and discussion needed.

The Press Box (orig. discussed at the 8/07/19 meeting) is still on hold. The builder still needs permits. Jay suggested that because of the time lapse and possible changes to original plans, Keith Lertora and Dave Petrosky need to attend another Parks Commission meeting to further discuss before proceeding.

Jay wanted to know who the softball commissioners are. There are tri-commissioners: Brittany Sheets, Andrew Lebo and Pat Cadden.

MARY ANN BRODIE-ENNIS

POS Funds FY 2022 has been received. We got 47K. This cannot be used at Creamery Park to work on the current basketball court because this was built with POS money less than 20 years ago. However, this money can be used for the new half basketball court at the same location. Our first priority with this money is the Creamery Park renovation. The ADA playground equipment will be put out to bid. Hopefully, paving the sidewalk, paving the parking lot and poured in place surface can be piggybacked with the county.

LPPI Funding – Frederick County received 6M in total and 3M were kept by them. So, 3M was distributed among municipalities. Walkersville will receive \$323,694. New signs for each park will be ordered to match the new Heritage Farm Park sign. A rain garden will be installed at the Whitmore-Zimmerman building to help with rain runoff (\$40K).

The Welcome to Walkersville signs have been ordered. These include the town emblem.

The town designated 175K in their budget for parks usage.

The barn work has been completed by Fitzgerald's Heavy Timber Construction. The deadline for submitting applications for the September election will be August 16th.

Members discussed the possibility of having Parks Commission members at the parks during busy times to get ideas from residents about future parks direction. Mary Ann attended the last Planning Meeting and suggested that with rezoning of town properties; perhaps land set aside for Parks would be beneficial to the town. POS money can be used for both park improvement and acquisition (buying of land).

KELLY WOODS

200 bags of rubber tire mulch are on order at a cost of \$2,880.

Miracle wants to put a quote in on Creamery Park.

The fence was taken down at Heritage.

The Frisbee area was mowed.

A big chipper is on the way to prune trees (will take a couple weeks).

COMMISSIONER THOUGHTS

Patricia wanted to know if a Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held this year at Creamery. Her son is in the marching band and they will need to start practicing if they are participating. This will be further discussed at the September meeting. Kitty will not be at the September meeting. Anna has agreed to take the notes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15. Patricia motioned and Anna seconded.

The next meeting will be held September 1st at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kitty Baker