

MINUTES

JANUARY 18, 2023 RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Catherine Cotrupi, Mr. Joseph Johnson, Ms. Nancy Brossoie, Dr. Rick Slavings, Mr. Sam Hubbard, Mr. Mark Layne, Mr. Seth Gillespie, Mr. David Ridpath, Mr. Greg Holbrook

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Kim Repass, Ms. Donna Wolfe

1. Call to order by Ms. Cotrupi and asked for the roll to be called.
2. Roll call was taken.
3. Mr. Johnson moved to approve the December 19, 2022 minutes as written. Seconded by Ms. Brossoie. The Commission passed the motion, 6-0.
4. Mr. Holbrook reported that He, Ms. Cotrupi, Nick Lancaster and Nursery Natives met to do a walk-through of Sunset Park where the native plant garden will go. Nursery Natives are working up a blueprint. Power line issues were a concern as were overhanging trees. The Radford Electric Department has been contacted to work on these concerns. Requests were made for the City to supply a bench, picnic table, permanent trash can and a sidewalk that is handicapped accessible. Suggestions were made that non-profit groups like the boy scouts could help with the construction. Maintenance of the garden will be done by Nursey Natives.
5. Mr. Holbrook provided an update on the Communications Board for the James Oakley Field Playground. The posts for the Sign are being placed as they wait for Miss Utility to show where to place them. The rock looking wall that is to be on field side of the park is in and will be constructed soon. Ms. Cotrupi is still researching the other sign for the park.
6. Ms. Repass gave an update on the Canoe/Tubing Program. Using the questions suggested by the Commission, they had narrowed it down to two providers, Paul Pallente and RU. After questions sessions, it was determined that RU failed to provide solid information and that Paul Pallente would be more flexible and have longer hours for patrons wanting to use the river. Also, Mr. Pallente has a vision for future expansion of the business and would like to host the Food Truck Rodeo. He has requested marketing help from the City. Dr. Slavings moved to give a formal recommendation for Paul Pallente to be the provider. Seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Commission passed the motion, 6-0.
7. Mr. Holbrook recommended that Joe Hodge Field be remodeled as it is getting old, hazardous and showing signs of deterioration. Mr. Holbrook spoke to the Radford Water Department that confirmed they could fix the water line issue. Transfer of monies from a Rec Department account would help in the repairs which was approved by the City Manager. Sisson Park, which is adjacent to the field also was discussed for an upgrade. Sponsorship banner were suggested by Mr. Johnson to help offset the cost of the upgrades. Ms. Cotrupi motioned to upgrade the field. Seconded by Mr. Johnson. The Commission passed the motion, 6-0.

- 8.** Mr. Ridpath gave an update on the Rec Director Position appointment. It is still in process and will be announced.
- 9.** Mr. Holbrook suggested that Electronic Kiosks be in place by the Basketball Tournaments in Feb/March. It will be discussed at the next Commission Meeting. Also, Banners will be at the Tournaments with the City website. Suggestions were made to help show restaurant, lodging and tourism to the City to visitors. Mr. Johnson suggested more Ballfield Banners at all the ballparks. Tourism was suggested to seek sponsorships.
- 10.** Mr. Gillespie expressed his honor in being able to serve on the Rec Commission board. Mr. Ridpath welcomed the new Council representative and proposed a Planning exercise for all the facilities, parks and programs for the next meeting.
- 11.** Mr. Holbrook appointed Ms. Brossoie as the "Friends of Sparky's Run". Ms. Brossoie gave a report of the park and that it is bringing interstate traffic to our Dog Park through the internet. She suggested a few improvements and having more events like having a Dog Day Event. More visibility was suggested with more exposure on Facebook, Social Media and more Signage to direct visitors to the park. Banners and Kiosks were suggested to offset the cost of the repairs.
- 12.** Mr. Holbrook gave an update on the upcoming tournaments for Basketball, Volleyball and Baseball/Softball. He suggested to rename the Radford Invitational Basketball Tournament to the Keith Crowder Memorial Basketball Tournament.
- 13.** Mr. Layne inquired about the Tennis Court/Pickle Court resurfacing. Mr. Holbrook gave an update that there will be 8 Pickleball Courts with nets and poles and 3 Tennis Courts with nets and poles. Senior Olympics will hold pickleball at the Recreation Center Courts with around 100 people in April.
- 14.** Mr. Holbrook reported that the Fireworks letter has been sent to our sponsor, Julian Kirk, for this year's fireworks display. Mr. Ridpath reported that the Aquatic Center Contract had been renewed and approved for another year.
- 15.** Mr. Holbrook reported that the feral cats at the Recreation Center and the Parks have become a problem on both sides of the issue. It was discussed that there are many cons to having feral cats on City property. Mr. Holbrook suggested that a meeting with the Police Department, Animal Shelter and the City should take place to form a plan for this problem.
- 16.** Dr. Slavings moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Brossoie. The Commission passed the motion, 6-0.