

MINUTES

MARCH 20, 2023

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Catherine Cotrupi, Ms. Nancy Brossoie, Mr. Sam Hubbard, Mr. Mark Layne, Ms. Brittany Osbourne, and Mr. Greg Holbrook-Director of Parks & Recreation

OTHERS PRESENT: Ms. Donna Wolfe

- A. Call to order by Ms. Cotrupi and asked for the roll to be called.
- B. Roll call was called.
- C. Ms. Osbourne moved to approve the January 18, 2023 minutes as written. Seconded by Mr. Layne. The Commission passed the motion, 5-0.
- D. Old Business
 1. Nursey Natives Update.

Plans were discussed for making the new garden handicapped accessible. Progress is being made on the planting plans. Adding benches were proposed.
 2. Update on John Dobbins Park
 - Ms. Cotrupi gave an update on the Communications Board for the John Dobbins Park. It is a new Welcome sign in multiple languages. Design for the sign is still being decided upon. Mr. Hubbard offered to help with the research on the sign design.
 - Ms. Osbourne gave an update on the Free Library at the park and possibly a Free Pantry. She is looking into all the particulars for these suggestions. Discussion was made about the safety and security of these kiosks, so the idea was tabled for now until more information is obtained. She suggested to get the Workshop class at RHS to do the building of kiosks.
 3. Update on Canoe/Tubing

Mr. Holbrook gave an update on the Canoe/Tubing Program. Paul Pallente was chosen to provide the service of the Canoe/Tubing Program for this year. He is currently accessing the equipment and setting up in the outdoor building at the old pool lot. He has a bus for transportation of canoers and tubers. He has requested to work out of Shelter #3. He also suggested that a ramp be built to help tubers and canoers get into the water easier. Canoe/Tubing is scheduled to begin late April – Mid May. Season will extend to Aug or Sept.
 4. Update on Joe Hodge Field Renovations
 - Mr. Holbrook gave an update on the renovation of Joe Hodge Field.
 - The demolition of the dugouts have been done. Rebuilding will start soon. The new dugouts will have 8' tall roofs.
 - Plumbing has begun under the field with new water lines. Repairs to bathrooms and installation of new water hookups will also start soon.

5. Ms. Brossoie gave an update on the Sparky's Run Dog Park. Friends of Sparky's Run dog park is growing. People are interested and eager to help. Email account has been set up and it has had a positive response. Several suggestions were made for improvements, events to raise money for new equipment and programs. Moving of the location of the dog park was discussed.
 - Improvements have been made to the dog park.
 1. New dirt was used to fill in holes.
 2. New bag dispensers were installed at the shelter.
 3. New gate has been purchased and will be hung soon.

6. Update on the Electronic Kiosks
 - Mr. Holbrook gave an update on the Electronic Kiosks.
 - Suggested placements are between the weight rooms at the Radford Recreation Center and in the entry of the basketball courts.
 - Information for Rec Sports and Programs as well as sponsored Ads from local businesses will be displayed on the Kiosks. The display would be like a 65" TV Screen.
 - The Recreation Department will receive a percentage of the Ad price and the kiosks are free.
 - It was also suggested selling of banner for the baseball/softball fields for the months of April – September. Pricing and details will be worked out soon. Concern over the lack of interest by the Chamber of Commerce when they tried to sell them was also discussed.

7. July 4th Update.
 - A new headliner band will be announced.
 - Everything has been ordered for the games, fireworks and music, etc.

8. Recreation Sports.
 - The first Youth Wrestling Tournament was a big success with 45 Radford wrestlers and 40-50 Pulaski wrestlers plus spectators. Another one is scheduled in two weeks.
 - The first basketball tournament was a big success with 42 teams. We had 5 gyms playing at the same time. The second basketball tournament was cancelled due to other tournaments in the area and Pulaski and Radford going to the State Finals.
 - Baseball, Softball, T-ball and Soccer are currently registrations are currently underway. These sports run April-June.

9. Pickleball/Tennis Courts Update.

Poles are in the ground for the different courts. Waiting on the weather to warm up to resurface the courts. Mr. Layne has been consulted and helping to create a divider system for the different courts. He suggested making a signup schedule, kept by the Recreation Department, to schedule games at each court. Rules would need to be made and posted. Benches were suggested for spectators.

10. Facility Planning Exercise was tabled for now and will be worked on for the next meeting.

E. New Business

1. 2023-2024 Recreation Budget Report.

- Budget has been submitted. Repairs of Recreation properties and facilities were also requested.
- Revenue will be added with all the weekend tournaments as they will support local businesses and tourism.

2. Senior Representative, Mr. Bobby McGuire has resigned from the Senior Liaison Representative. Mr. Holbrook asked for suggestions for someone to fill the position.

F. Liaison Comments

No Liaisons were present for this meeting.

G. Directors Comments

- Update on appointing the New Recreation Director. Mr. Greg Holbrook has been appointed as the New Director.
- Upcoming Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 25th.
- Upcoming Racquetball Tournament on Saturday March 25th.

H. Ms. Cortrupi moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Osbourne. The Commission passed the motion, 5-0.