

Wicomico Recreation Parks Commission Meeting

January 28, 2020

Minutes

The Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting met in regular session on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 in the Conference Room of the Civic Center.

The following Commission and staff members were present:

Commission Members

Jay Disharoon

Erin Smith

George Burbage

Jermichael Mitchell

Staff Members

Steve Miller

Chuck Poole

James Simmons

Linda Lyons

In Chairman Brown's absence, the meeting was called to order by Mr. Miller at 7:05 pm. With the absence of a quorum, the minutes from the December 3, 2019 meeting were tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. Poole reported on ongoing projects at the Henry S. Parker Athletic Complex. Field 7-1/2 groundbreaking could begin next week. The project is expected to take six weeks to completion. The fencing bid has been secured and the sidewalk bid opening is on February 4, 2020. Improvements to fields 1-4 include enlarging the dugouts from 26' – 40' long, new field materials and fencing. Additional projects include pulling electric to all fields including the dugouts on the turf fields so misters can be hooked up for extreme heat conditions. Completion plan for projects is Spring 2020. Mr. Poole continued with updates on other park projects. He went on to speak of Schumaker Park. While \$65,000 in POS funding has been secured to replace the playground equipment, the vendor (Game Time) has a grant program and gave an additional \$9,000 at no cost to the County for additional play equipment. The Riverside boat ramp is currently under construction. The fence at Emerson Holloway has been replaced while the pavilion is being rebuilt. New playground equipment was placed last year so the park is in great condition. Field 4 at Willards will receive the materials removed from Field 1-4 at the complex. Other projects in place are replacing the safety surfaces on playgrounds, tree removal, mulching. Future projects include mowing ditch banks, landscaping, and repairing the parking lot timbers at Pemberton Park.

Mr. Simmons presented the Recreation updates. Governor's Challenge was successful, highlighting a free youth basketball clinic that was held in the arena. On February 13, 2020 the County will host the third annual Good Sports Awards to honor players and coaches who demonstrate the four core values supported by Wicomico County Recreation, Parks & Tourism: fun, community, sportsmanship and skill development. Twenty-three sports organizations are confirmed to recognize one youth player and one coach that best demonstrates these values. Awards include Outstanding Coach Award, Administrator of the Year, Official of the Year, Lorne C. Rickert Lifetime Volunteer Award, and Community Impact Award.

The Recreation staff's focus will turn to programming for Field 7-1/2. The field will be the hub for Challenger Little League and will look to include other programming such as: Special Olympics through the Maryland Lower Eastern Shore, and County Leagues and programs. The Board of Ed has suggested that bocce might be a fit and is looking to host a match in April at Field 7.5. The comment was made of the positive feedback from parents regarding the Wicomico Youth Basketball League (WYBL).

Mr. Simmons went on to discuss the Summer Camps. Kids Klub will continue offering summer camp programs at North Salisbury, Delmar, Westside, Pemberton and Pinehurst. Outside of the summer escape programs, youth basketball camps will also be offered.

Mr. Simmons opened the discussion on the proposed 2020 Summer Playground program. He recapped last year and the "Summerfest" series of event block parties. There were seven themed events that rotated through selected parks. His proposal for 2020 is to continue the Summerfest concept but reduce to four events and to partner with the City of Salisbury for movie nights and add-on entertainment. The Salvation Army has shown interest in partnering to make their pool available for free community pool days on Thursdays from 1-6 pm. Staff will also investigate possibilities to include field trips as part of the offerings for the summer playground program. These field trips would be education based i.e., Harriet Tubman Museum in Cambridge and Wallops Island. More details will be available at the next commission meeting.

Mr. Miller introduced a new fundraiser for Field 7-1/2 called the Suitcase Party. The party will be held Friday, April 3 at the Civic Center. As an overview of the event, attendees are to register as a team and come to the party with their suitcase packed. Attendees will enjoy appetizers, beer and wine, table games, raffle prizes. When the winning team's name is pulled, they will hop onto a private jet to Atlanta that evening to attend the Men's Final Four Basketball games on Saturday, April 4. Limited early bird tickets will go on sale Monday, February 3 at 10:00 am for \$50 each/ \$100 team. Once these tickets are sold the price will be \$75 each/ \$150 team. Sponsorships are still available.

Mr. Miller continued to give the Pirate's Wharf updates. The Archaeological Phase 1 study is complete and the draft is under review by State agencies. Tree planting will begin in April on 14 acres of the land that are to be converted from farmland to forest. The plan is to have some opportunity for community group involvement in the planting process. The park is on target to open sometime in 2021.

The new marquee is the first outside enhancement to the Civic Center. Over the next six months upgrades will focus on security on the outside of the building. The Stadium Authority refresh study for the Civic Center is expected to be received this week.

Mr. Miller's final report was regarding Program Open Space, the state grant program. The municipalities' requests have been received. The POS sub-committee will review the requests to make recommendation to the County Executive about how the monies will be allocated. It was noted that bids were out for the resurfacing of the Fruitland Little League parking lots under the 2020 POS program. The lots should be complete prior to the first tournament in Fruitland.

Will no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Next meeting TBD

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By,
Linda Lyons