

RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of October 17, 2019

The October meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center.

Commissioners Present: Mr. David Dorsey, Mr. Cameron John, Mr. Brandon McVade, Mrs. Sue Sargeant, Dr. John Russ, Mrs. Sharon Null, Dr. Tim Duffy

Absent: Mr. DaCorey Carter, Mr. Eric Keeler

Also in attendance: Director Jane Shelhorse, Mrs. Janice Lasker, Mr. Malik White

- I. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of September 19, 2019 were approved with one correction.

- II. **Introduction of Malik White, Department Intern** – Malik joined the Department in August and has been busy since then. He helped with the Urban Slide, employee field day, various sports projects, and coached a girls' field hockey team. Malik will continue to assist the Department until he completes his internship and graduates from Old Dominion University in December 2019.

- III. **Opportunity for Public Comment** – Jim and Ginny Branscome presented a petition in opposition to the Department installing lights and additional pickleball courts at Memorial Park. While they enjoy playing pickleball, they are concerned about how the noise of the game has already impacted their quiet neighborhood. Adding more courts and lights will only extend the time and volume of the noise. They suggested that if the City decides to add courts, they consider a park area where the noise will not impact homeowners. Linda Harris, a City resident and pickleball player, added that beginner level players are being run off the courts by the more advanced players, and that often, those advanced players are not City residents. The commissioners discussed the issue and Director Shelhorse agreed to discuss the play time, lighting, and consideration of additional courts with Department staff.

- IV. **Communications from Director:**
 - A. **Commission List** – Director Shelhorse shared the updated list.

- B. Financial Report** – Director Shelhorse reviewed the financial reports. She was unable to explain the decrease in program and rental revenue, but will follow up with Wendy Stone.
- C. Leisure Report** – Director Shelhorse noted that 280 people participated in the Big Fall Clean Up. She stated that Zach Naegele is leaving the Nature Department to return to Yosemite. We are currently accepting applications for his position.
- D. Special Events** – The Bee Flix events have been a huge success, and B101.5 will be bringing them back in May. The Department is not doing a New Year’s Eve event this year due to the expense, staff requirement, and low attendance.
- E. Sports and Parks** – Park updates will be discussed in Old Business.

V. Noteworthy Dates – Director Shelhorse reviewed noteworthy dates.

VI. Old Business:

- A. Rock the Red** – The lines have been painted, the surface is ready to be stenciled, and the Ribbon Cutting is scheduled for October 27, 2019. Director Shelhorse encouraged the commissioners to attend.
- B. Riverfront Park** – The City has received the bids.
- C. Strategic Plan** – Over 270 people completed the survey and Lose is compiling the information.
- D. City Branding Project** – no update
- E. Director’s Fund** – We received over \$4500 in addition to the \$10,000 grant. Director Shelhorse will follow up to see if the Garden Council scholarship should get donated to the Director’s Fund or to a grant fund added to the Department budget.
- F. Memorial Park Restroom** – The final inspection is on October 18, 2019, and then the project will be complete. During this fiscal year, the Department will be improving the ADA accessibility of the Old Mill Park restrooms.

VII. New Business:

- A. Volunteer Award Nominations:** The commissioners reviewed the nominees for awards and approved the following:

Sunshine Lady Foundation Contributor of the Year:

Washington Capitals

Sports Volunteer of the Year: Patrick Whalen

New Volunteer Coach of the Year: Ronis Benitez

Alvin Staples Leisure Volunteer of the Year Award: Keith Homza

Hall of Fame Award: Jennifer Gallaway

Special Support Award: Keep Virginia Beautiful and Kevin Brown

Golden Partnership Award: Fredericksburg Trails Alliance – Rob Maple and the Washington Capitals

Recreation Commission Award: Barbara “Buzzy” Benton

Parks and Recreation Appreciation Award: Economic Development and Tourism

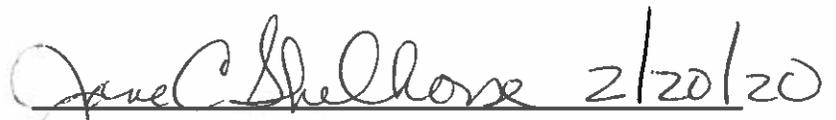
Eagle Scout Service Projects: Owen Olson, Ryan Sweet, Ben Grabber, and Steven Fry

Past Recreation Commission: Dr. Marcus Tepaske and Mr. James Bailey

- B. Sportsmanship Penalty Card** – Director Shelhorse shared information that Jillian Franklin and Bill Mitchell learned about during a recent sportsmanship conference. A purple card can be used to warn and then penalize teams who have unruly spectators.

VIII. Directors/Commission Concerns and Topics – none

Meeting adjourned at 8:05p.m.


Jane C. Shelhorse 2/20/20
Director Date

The Volunteer Appreciation Social on November 21 will take the place of our regularly scheduled meeting for November.

Next Meeting December 19, 2019 6:30pm at the Dorothy Hart Community Center