

**CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 19, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

The January meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, January, 2023, at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. Chairperson Sue Sargent, Vice-Chairperson Eric Keeler, David Dorsey, Quincy Click, Sharon Null, Brandon McVade and Dr. Don Upperco were in attendance. Dr. Timothy Duffy and DaCorey Carter were absent. Todd Brown, Parks, Recreation and Events Director, was in attendance. Jennifer Casarotti, Assistant Director, Administration, Recreation Programs & Services was in attendance as well as, Justus Casino, Community Outreach Coordinator.

I. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sue Sargent.

II. Approval of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission Minutes of November 16, 2022

The minutes were approved with no corrections. Sue Sargent moved to accept the minutes and the motion was seconded.

III. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comments were made.

IV. Parks, Recreation and Events' Department Report

- A. The Parks, Recreation and Events' Director highlighted the success of items in the areas of programs and events. Programs were seeing upward trends in attendance. Increase in utilization of the Dorothy Hart Community Center for Saturday pop-up programs have been successful. Preparations are being made for pool season to start. Lil Hoopsters, our tot basketball program will return. Group fitness programs are successful. Fitness equipment installation was completed on the heritage trail

V. Old Business

- A. Todd stated he was hopeful that the budget will be approved. Infrastructure repairs have been prioritized and included in the FY24 budget submission.
- B. Jennifer Casarotti presented the FY2024 program and rental fee report. Fee adjustment will be implemented to offset costs of inflation. Despite the increase Parks, Recreations and Events is still the cheapest option for the public. A public meeting will be held for public input and awareness.
- C. Todd Brown clarified his plans for the FUNd Park Fund, and the allocation of money marked for specific uses.
- D. The floor was open for questions. David Dorsey questioned whether the Farmers Market fees will also increase. Todd stated that a report on the Farmer's Market fee breakdown was being written.
- E. Eric Keeler asked about various Memorandums of Understanding and whether groups with MOUs would be affected by the fee increase. Todd stated the need for compiling a

master list of MOUs, but that the various groups will be considered for lower fee prices while conducting official business.

- F. Building of the bathrooms at Riverfront Park has been delayed due no project bidding proposals. Building of the stage has been pushed back.

VI. New Business

- A. Brandon McVade gave an update on the Washington Capitals initiative to start a regional league. The initiative is in the early stages. The creation of a road league to generate revenue was discussed. The parks and recreation learn to play hockey programs were highlighted. Todd Brown pressed the need for nighttime lights. Rink lights would allow further utilization of the hockey rink as well as an expansion of programs and practices. Pushback on hockey rink lights is expected because of similar needs for lighting the soccer fields. Brandon left at the conclusion of his presentation.
- B. Todd Brown discussed the development of a masterplan for Ficklen Island and Old Mill Park. Masterplan should be complete by fall.
- C. Plans are being put in place to determine the best way to increase foot traffic to the Dorothy Hart Community Center

VII. Director/Commission Concerns & Topics

- A. Quincy Click stated that social media has been increasing in quality and quantity.
- B. David Dorsey brought up the need to look into the potential for making the canal a protected historical site.
- C. Sue Sargent commented on how much children seemed to enjoy utilizing Riverfront Park in the winter.
- D. Dr. Don Upperco stated that Hugh Mercer Elementary school will be unavailable for summer camps. Lafayette Elementary School will handle summer school in June.
- E. Sharon Null stated that the dog training sessions at Dorothy Hart Community Center has been very successful.

Sharon Null moved to adjourn the session David Dorsey seconded the motion.