

**FREDERICKSBURG  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of April 19, 2018**

The April meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, April 19, 2018 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:28pm.

Commissioners Present: Mr. Brandon McVade, Dr. Marcus Tepaske, Dr. Tim Duffy, Mrs. Susan Tyler, Mrs. Sharon Null, Mr. David Dorsey, Mr. John Russ, Mrs. Sue Sargeant, Mr. James Bailey Also in attendance: Director Jane Shelhorse, Mrs. Janice Lasker, Mrs. Patty Sparks

- I. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of March 15, 2018 were unanimously approved.
  
- II. **Public Comment – none**
  
- III. **Introduction of Department Staff –** Director Shelhorse introduced Jenny Casarotti, Superintendent of Leisure Services, who started with our Department in March of this year. Jenny grew up in Spotsylvania, is a career softball player and has two children. She has an MBA from Methodist University and brings years of recreation experience to the Department. She worked for Spotsylvania County Parks and Recreation and for the Marine Corps in Quantico for the past eight years doing Commercial Recreation. She joins the Department in time to prepare the pool for the season, finalize summer camps, and manage ongoing and upcoming leisure programs. On another note, Brad Williams, our Sports Supervisor, resigned and has been replaced by Bill Mitchell, who was the number two candidate during the recent hiring process. Bill has worked for the department for five years as a part time intern. Bill will be full time upon graduation from Randolph Macon in May.
  
- IV. **Communications from Director:**
  - A. **Financial Report –** March 2018 – Director Shelhorse reviewed the financial reports. Camp sign ups were a success. We took in \$35K during the early bird registration for City residents and \$18k the next

day. The two day total from in-person and online registration was \$71K, as compared to \$54K last year.

- B. Leisure Report** – We will have the Mother/Son dance on May 4. Earth Day is this Saturday, April 21 at Old Mill Park.
- C. Special Events** – We sold 41 pieces of art at the Fine Arts Show, an all-time high. The summer catalog has been distributed to City schools. Picnic in the Park starts May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- D. Sports and Parks** – Baseball starts Monday. We put out new bottle-shaped recycling containers along the paths with the hope of promoting recycling interest. We have received several negative comments about the containers, so we will be replacing them with something else. Four outdoor fitness pieces have been installed at Dixon Park as an Eagle project.

**V. Noteworthy Dates** – Director Shelhorse reviewed upcoming dates and events. The Farmer’s Market opens this Saturday.

**VI. Old Business –**

- A. Hurkamp Park Restrooms** – Due to the park’s history, we have encountered trouble getting the utilities installed. The building is ready, so once an acceptable route is found to connect to the utilities, the project will proceed quickly.
- B. Native Plant Garden at Cossey Park** – The project has been cancelled. Due to concerns by the Recreation Commission and the community, the group has decided to take the project somewhere else in the area.
- C. Foundation for Parks** –Director Shelhorse said that staff is working on a mission for the fund. Some of the ideas being discussed are park trails, recreation enhancements to improve accessibility, scholarships, greater access to healthier food options, and public sculptures. Director Shelhorse asked the Commissioners to share any additional ideas for use of the funds. Also under consideration is who will help to oversee the fund; staff has suggested the Department Director, two staff members, and two members of the Recreation Commission. Commissioner Dorsey suggested that we set up a campaign to encourage and promote public donations. Commissioner Tepaske suggested that we set up an option for

people to become Park Patrons that enables them to donate on a recurring basis.

- D. **“Rock the Red”** – The project is going to City Council Tuesday. The MOU is included in the packet, and the money has been included in the CIP budget. We are hoping to get sponsorships for \$60K to pay the balance of the project. If approved, the project could start in summer and be ready in late fall.


## **VII. New Business:**

- A. Rita Girard, Director of Mental Health America, gave a brief summary of what MHA does in the community. Ms. Girard proposed a Healing Garden in Memorial Park as a way to promote mental wellness and to provide a place for people to heal. MHA has developed a plan to plant eight trees in Memorial Park that represent symbols of healing. In conjunction with Tree Fredericksburg, they would plant two trees per year over four years. The proposed area in the park frequently has standing water, so the trees would help with the water problem in addition to providing a place for people to go for solitude and healing. Memorial Park fits the needs of offering an outside venue that is visible to the public but also offers solitude. Commissioner Tyler asked MHA to mark the area where the trees would be placed so that the Commissioners can get a better visual of the plan. Commissioner Duffy suggested getting a plaque in the future to recognize the significance of the garden. The Commissioners tabled the vote until the May meeting when they will have viewed the proposed site.
- B. Tennis Practice Wall at Memorial Park - Several people have called in regard to replacing the wall in Memorial Park, and we are in the process of getting bids. We are waiting for our insurance claim to come back. Commissioner Null asked about finding a local masonry class that might be willing to take on the project.

- VIII. **Directors/Commission Concerns and Topics** – Commissioner Tepaske asked about our signs. Director Shelhorse said she would have an update at our next meeting. Commissioner Null mentioned problems with people gathering late at night at Hurkamp Park. She expressed

concern about similar issues occurring at Riverfront Park when it is redone. Director Shelhorse will pass the concern along to the appropriate people.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18pm.

 5/17/18  
Jane C. Shelhorse                      Date  
Director

**Next Meeting May 17th, 2018 6:30pm at the Dorothy Hart Community Center**