

**FREDERICKSBURG  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of May 17, 2018**

The May meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm.

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

- I. **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of April 19, 2018 were unanimously approved with grammar corrections.
  
- II. **Public Comment – none**
  
- III. **Introduction of Department Staff –** Jennifer “Jen” Bowman, the Nature Education Supervisor, introduced herself and shared a brief bio. Jen grew up on a sheep farm in Delaware and has been a lover of the outdoors from an early age. She earned her Master’s Degree in Environmental Science and Education from Antioch University in New England. She recently completed community engagement work in Massachusetts for a small non-profit, and had previously worked for the State of Delaware and at Cornell Cooperative Extension doing environmental education. Jen enjoys a variety of creative interests and has experience teaching all age groups. She loves to learn new things and has a special interest in forest forensics.
  
- IV. **Communications from Director:**
  - A. **Financial Report –** April 2018 – Revenue is up and expenditures are down, so we are doing well.
  - B. **Leisure Report –** We had 75 boys and their dates attend the Mother/Son dance. We are busy cleaning and preparing the pool for the Memorial Day weekend opening.

- C. **Special Events** – Picnic in the Park is off to a strong start. Applications are up ten percent already this year. Director Shelhorse shared the summer concert series schedule.
- D. **Sports and Parks-** Soccer and field hockey playoffs are underway. Baseball has started. Numbers for sports participation are about the same as in the past. We are preparing for Midnight Madness. We have found a pathway for the utilities at Hurkamp Park and are purchasing a grinder pump so that the restrooms do not need to be gravity fed. We are waiting on estimates for replacing the tennis wall at Memorial Park. The fence has been installed at Snowden Park.
- E. Director Shelhorse shared the Free Lance-Star article on Doris Buffett’s endowment for the pool.
- F. Director Shelhorse shared a letter from MWH thanking us for our participation in Camp Rainbow at Motts.

V. **Noteworthy Dates** – Director Shelhorse reviewed upcoming dates and events.

VI. **Old Business** –


- A. **Hurkamp Park Restrooms** – We will be marking the utility path on May 21.
- B. **Healing Grove-** Director Shelhorse shared a letter from a concerned resident regarding the Mental Health of America healing grove proposal for Memorial Park. The citizen expressed concerns about the trees encroaching on the play area and suggested finding another site for the healing grove. We will post the proposal on our website for one month to give the public a chance to provide feedback, and we will push the vote to our next meeting.
- C. **Foundation for Parks** –nothing new
- D. **“Rock the Red”** –The City has contacted an engineer to begin work on a design to submit to the Technical Review Committee. Commissioner McVade stated that the Fredericksburg Roller Hockey league has raised almost \$8000 to date for the project. Advertising on the dasher boards would be on the inside of the boards surrounding the rink.

**VII. New Business:**

**A. Upcoming Vacancies** – After more than 15 years on the Commission, Susan Tyler’s term expires in June, so we are seeking a new Commissioner.

**VIII. Directors/Commission Concerns and Topics** – Commissioner Null has heard from a field hockey parent that there is not sufficient parking at Dixon Park during field hockey and soccer season. There is one posted sign for “No Curbside Parking”, but people are frequently ticketed for parking along the curb in areas where there is no posted sign. Commissioner Null asked that we post more signs and asked if we would consider allowing a bit more time in between games so that one group has a chance to leave before the next group arrives. Director Shelhorse shared a letter of complaint that the mayor received regarding the pickleball players taking up most of the available parking. Commissioner Russ mentioned that he has been contacted by a gentleman in town who is trying to get a Futsal court in the City. The Futsal group wants us to build or provide the court, but Dr. Russ is not aware of any City property that is available. The Futsal group would like to run the league if a court is made available. Commissioner Dorsey asked that we revisit our fees for parks. He noted that Old Mill Park is extremely busy, and it might be worth charging non-city residents for parking on weekends in order to help pay for ongoing park maintenance. He suggested we post a sign near the playground that the small parking lot is only for people using the playground.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

  
Jane C. Shelhorse                      6/21/18  
Director    Date

**Next Meeting June 21, 2018 6:30pm at the Dorothy Hart Community Center**