

**FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of August 20, 2020**

The August meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held electronically on August 20, 2020 by GoToMeeting pursuant to City Council ordinance 20-05, an ordinance to address continuancy of City government during the tendency of pandemic disaster.

Commissioners Present: Mr. DaCorey Carter, Mr. David Dorsey, Dr. Tim Duffy, Dr. Matt Eberhardt, Mr. Cameron John, Mr. Eric Keeler, Mr. Brandon McVade, Mrs. Sharon Null, Mrs. Sue Sargeant Also in attendance: Director Jane Shelhorse, Mrs. Janice Lasker

- I. **Approval of Minutes** – The July 16, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved.

- II. **Opportunity for Public Comment** – none

- III. **Communications from the Director** –
 - A. **Program Update** – Director Shelhorse reviewed the success of the Camp@Home programs that the Department offered and made mention of possibly developing a similar program for seniors. She noted the upcoming Children’s Art Show, Bingo events, Sport in a Box, and several sports clinics. She added that the Department would like to partner with JMHS for sports clinics, but still needs commitment from coaches. Commissioner Keeler interjected that the soccer team would be willing to partner, and Commissioner McVade added that the roller hockey folks would gladly oversee hockey. He also noted that the Adult Hockey league is ready to resume playing. With the return of Callie Brown to our Nature Department, several nature programs have been planned for fall. Director Shelhorse asked if the schools would be interested in virtual nature field trips at Motts Reservoir. Commissioner Eberhardt said interest would be high as the schools are looking for different ways to engage the students. The Department hopes to have the ADA ramp installed at Alum Spring Park this fiscal year. With the recent rain, fields at Dixon Park were ruined by kids moving soccer goals to fields of their choosing and playing in saturated conditions. Commissioner Keeler added that Field 5 tends to hold water due to poor drainage, so that field may not be the ideal field to rent. A huge tree fell on the Mayfield Civic Association building, which the Department was able to remove quickly. The Department has plans to

expand the playground at Maury Park. The Events team dealt with 24 permits for Freedom of Expression events in the month of June alone. They are planning concerts at Memorial Park to begin in September. Commissioner Null asked if there are any plans for Christmas events. Director Shelhorse shared the possible Christmas Parade options but noted they need to be presented to the City Manager before a decision is made to proceed.

- B. Director Shelhorse read the reappointment letter for Councilor Tim Duffy to the Recreation Commission.
- C. **Commission Contact List** – Director Shelhorse asked the commissioners to review the updated list for corrections while noting the addition of Dr. Matthew Eberhardt.

IV. **Old Business:**

- A. **Riverfront Park** – The recent rains have delayed construction.
- B. **Strategic Plan** – Lose Designs reported back that the Department is understaffed, that people love our parks and trails and want to see more offered at the DHCC.
- C. **Alum Spring Playground** – Hoping for September completion

V. **New Business:**

- A. **New Programs** – The Department is planning the Mother/Son dance for September, and it will be held outside under the stars. The new City logo has been revealed and is included in the current commission packets. The “X” in the logo is able to be changed to suit the department.
- B. **Story Walk** – The Department has bought the rights to a walkable book that will be placed along the Heritage Trail near Old Mill Park. It is a 16 page book that allows parents and children to walk from station to station reading the pages.

VI. **Directors/Commission Concerns and Topics** – Director Shelhorse is unable to make the September meeting, and Wendy Stone will attend in her place. She shared that we will be partnering with the marketing department at UMW to promote the Director’s Fund.

Commissioner Keeler brought up that he has a major concern about an issue brought up at last month’s meeting, charging non-city residents for using or parking at Old Mill Park. He feels OMP is a regional area where people congregate, and it would give the City a bad image to restrict the use to anyone. He stated that our programs “highlight equity in the City” and are where people “make friends across all kinds of races”. To him, “It’s the

beginning a long time relationship”, and an important piece of our programs. He also stated that our “parks are an economic development tool that attract people to the City”.

Commissioner Dorsey added that he agreed completely, but is concerned about a lack of funding for parks and programs. He would like to see the Department add a donation box at the entry to OMP.

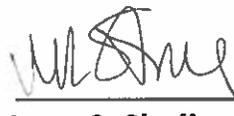
Commissioner Duffy added that City Council agrees that parks contribute to quality of life and that diversity creates the spirit of the parks. He is concerned that our facilities are sometimes overwhelmed by use. On another note, he shared that \$100k to \$150k has been appropriated to help tell the history of the City.

Commissioner Sargent added that UMW is partnering with the City on a Civil Rights Trail to include Frenchman’s Wharf.

Commissioner McVade asked if we had been given a completion date for the stenciling of the hockey rink.

Commissioner Carter stated that he would be on board for helping with a basketball clinic.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.



Jane C. Shelhorse
Director

9/22/2020

Date

Next Meeting September 17th at 6:30pm at the Dorothy Hart Community Center