

**CITY OF FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 20, 2023
6:30 p.m.**

The July meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the Dorothy Hart Community Center. Chair Sue Sargent and Vice-Chair Erik Keeler, were present, along with Dr. Timothy Duffy, Quincy Click, Dr. Don Upperco. New members Debe Fultz and Robert Belcourt were in attendance and introduced. Another new member who was introduced but not in attendance was Carolyn Helfrich. Todd Brown, Parks, Recreation and Events Director, and Heather Hughes, Special Events Supervisor, were also present.

I. Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by Sue Sargent.

II. A presentation was made by Sue Sargent to DaCorey Carter to thank him for his service while on the Recreation Commission.

III. Approval of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission Minutes of March 23, 2023

The minutes were approved with no corrections. Quincy Click moved to accept the minutes and Don Upperco seconded the motion.

IV. Opportunity for Public Comment

- One comment was made on boats being seen in Cossey Pond and that is not permitted. Staff agreed to look into the quality of signage.
- There were comments and discussions on the challenges in sports finding fields and court use in Fredericksburg for public and school use.

V. Parks, Recreation and Events' Department Report

New staff member Heather Hughes, PRE's Special Event Supervisor was introduced. The Parks, Recreation and Events' Director highlighted items in the areas of programs, events, and special projects that were in the PRE report. The Director noted that more people are using Dorothy Hart Community Center since indoor play programs began, camps held in the building, and a few more rentals. Farmers Market will continue to increase programming and educational content and the results are very favorable. Tuesdays' Picnic in the Park program thrived this year and the second year of Mobile Recreation continued to serve the underserved communities very well. Camps are very successful with wait lists in most camps. Expansion of camps would require more facilities. Sports leagues need more coaches, facilities, and officials. Restroom facilities at Riverfront Park should be completed in the fall, while the stage project is scheduled for an early 2024 completion date. The 2023 Christmas Parade's theme will be "Christmas Under the Sea" and will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023.

VI. Old Business

- A. The standard operating procedure for memorials in parks was discussed and agreed upon that the Director will finalize the document and post it on the website and no further action is required for the Master Plan implementation is underway.
- B. The Director's desire to have a Parks Friends Team to assist with securing alternative funding, helping with volunteering efforts, and advocacy.
- C. Plant and Play Day is a new event planned for September 23rd at Virginia Credit Union Stadium. It was discussed as a way to encourage the public to give to the FUNd Parks Fund. Some ways to attract volunteers to assist with this new, free event were explored.

VII. New Business

- A. Staff is working with Virginia Cooperative Extension on planning for the botanical area in Cossey Park. An advisory panel was created to help with assessing current uses and future needs. The staff plans to take a written plan to the public in the fall.
- B. Smoke-Free Park is happening – The Commission is working on ratifying the city documents
- C. Started interviewing for the Community Outreach Coordinator position.
- D. Begun soliciting contracted vendors to lead and create two site-level master plans; one for Old Mill Park Ficklen Island and Alum Springs Park.

VIII. Director/Commission Concerns & Topics

- Thank you for all the summer camps; it gives parents many options.
- There are concerns with access to Mary Washington University, as they don't have a field for kids and adults to play pickup games of soccer. Maybe the city should reach out and create a relationship between the City and UMW to talk about field use, especially since we are losing fields 6 & 7 to the Wastewater facility project.
- One question asked is when we are building the parks are we thinking about accessibility?
- Economic Development is ready to go live with the list of Accessible Parks. Would like to see all the parks added to the list.
- Happy about everything and is planning on being there on September 23 for Plant and Play Day.
- One idea was to maybe look at getting staff golf carts so they can better patrol Dixon.
- One comment was a positive remark about Picnic in the Park, and the other members agreed.

Quincy Click moved to adjourn the meeting and Don Upperco seconded the motion.