



**ROANOKE**  
PARKS AND RECREATION

# MILL MOUNTAIN ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date:	13 May 2020	Location:	Zoom
Chair:	Dave Perry	Recorder:	Michael Clark
Call to Order:	4:00 p.m.	Adjourn:	5:00 p.m.

## Section I - Attendees

Name	Position
Dave Perry	Board Chair
Sissy Kegley	Board Member, Vice Chair
Whitney Feldmann	Board Member, Garden Club Representative
Ben Rottenborn	Board Member
Jeff Todd	Board Member
Niki Voudren	Board Member, Zoo Representative
Michael Clark	Director of Parks and Recreation
Matt Allenbaugh	Mill Mountain Supervisor
Renee Powers	Trails and Greenways Coordinator

## Section II - Standing Agenda Items

Item	Discussion
Call to Order - Dave Perry	Chairperson Dave Perry called the meeting to order.
Roll Call	Mr. Clark called roll.
Approved of Minutes (Action Required)	A motion made by Ms. Feldmann to approve the March 11, 2020 minutes. Ms. Kegley seconded the motion for the approval of the minutes and passed by unanimous vote.
Public Comments	N/A
Member Comments	Chairperson David Perry advised there were no member comments.
Mill Mountain Supervisor Report	Mr. Allenbaugh reported that there were two successful in-person programs since last meeting, some programs have shifted to virtual programs and social media content. Mr. Allenbaugh reported that the Great Roanoke Camp would take place Memorial Day weekend. March attendance was at 830, on March 14 <sup>th</sup> the Discovery Center closed to the public. April attendance was zero. Mr. Allenbaugh reported that the facility has been cleaned, sanitized, and updated some of the displays. Animals are being cared for as required. Mr. Allenbaugh stated that all part-time staff have been furloughed.
Mill Mountain Zoo Report	Ms. Voudren reported that the American Black Bear exhibit is still on schedule to open late spring/early summer. Ms. Voudren reported that during the facility closure the restrooms have been painted inside and out, landscape maintenance is ongoing, and the facility is being pressure washed and stained. Ms. Voudren stated that the Zoo Choo has been repaired and the Zoo Choo train station roof is being replaced. Ms. Voudren reported that all events were cancelled.
Mill Mountain Garden Report	<p>Ms. Feldmann reported that despite closure of Mill Mountain Park, the Wild Flower Garden restoration project has been moving forward. The City was awarded a \$40,000 grant to be used for the pond restoration. Ms. Feldmann reported that the job was awarded to Roanoke Landscapes, June 1<sup>st</sup> is their targeted start date and the project is to be completed in two weeks.</p> <p>Ms. Feldmann stated that the Wild Flower Garden Restoration Project includes three phases, the pond restoration is phase one. The second phase is to develop the Discovery Path and the third phase will be the horticultural phase. Ms. Feldmann reported that the Mill Mountain garden club received \$2,000 from Partner for Plants horticultural grant from Garden Club of America.</p>

	Ms. Feldmann stated that a future project of interest in conjunction with Wildflower Garden Club is having Roanoke become a Bee City. Ms. Feldmann stated that the club would like to present to Mr. Clark, Mr. Dan Henry, and Ms. Laura Reilly, regarding expectations for City involvement.
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### Section III – New Business Items

Item	Discussion
COVID-19 Impacts on the Department	Mr. Clark reported on the impacts that Covid-19 had on the department beginning with the closing of the Greenway which was closed due to high usage and no regard to social distancing guidelines. In the month of March the greenway section of Wasena usage was averaging 3,000 a day during the weekend and 1,000 a day during the weekdays. Mr. Clark stated that hopefully some programming will be able to resume towards phase 3. Mr. Clark reported that the department lost a lot of revenue due to refunding programs and reservations. City Council is considering closing the pools until 2022. Mr. Clark stated that the police are assisting with breaking up large groups to enforce social distancing measures. Mr. Clark reported that there is no set budget for next fiscal year.

### Section IV – Old Business Items

Item	Discussion
Mill Mountain Trails Plan Update	Ms. Powers reported that there have not been any new meetings and movement has slowed down a little. Ms. Powers stated that she has the third draft prepared and it is about 50 pages long. Ms. Powers stated that she hopes to be able to hold a virtual input meeting to receive some feedback.

### Section V – Other Business Items

Item	Discussion
N/A	N/A

### Section VI – Next Meeting

Title	Name	Position
Chair	David Perry	Board Chair
Recorder	Michael Clark	Director

  

Date	Time	Location
8 July 2020	4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	TBD