



**ROANOKE**  
PARKS AND RECREATION

# PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date:	16 June 2020	Location:	Conference Call
Chair:	Joshua Dietz	Recorder:	Michael Clark
Call to Order:	5:30 p.m.	Adjourn:	7:00 p.m.

## Section I – Attendees

Name	Position
Joshua Dietz	Board Chair
Lauren Hartman	Board Vice Chair
Chris Bryant	Board Member
Melanie Crovo	Board Member
Pete Eshelman	Board Member
Matthew Kelley	Board Member
William Modica	Board Member
Luke Priddy	Board Member
Jared Rigby	Board Member
Jerome Stephens	Board Member
Sue Williams	Board Member
Michael Clark	Director

## Section II – Standing Agenda Items

Item	Discussion
Call to Order	Joshua Dietz called the meeting to order.
Roll Call	Michael Clark called roll
Approval of Minutes (Action Required)	Pete Eshelman made a motion to approve the minutes for the month of May; seconded by Sue Williams. May minutes approved by unanimous vote. Sue Williams made a motion to approve special E-bikes meeting minutes; William Modica seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.
Public Comments	N/A
Member Comments	<p>Lauren Hartman stated she would like to see safety measures implemented on the greenway by using markings and posting speed limits.</p> <p>Michael Clark responded by stating he has started a conversation with staff pertaining to greenway safety. The following safety measures are being considered: marking the greenway with a yellow stripe from Vic Thomas to Carilion, rumble strips similar to those found on the interstate and small modular style speed bumps. Michael Clark agreed it would be helpful to have the E-bike speed limits posted but explained it would also be difficult to enforce the speed limit on the greenway and trails.</p> <p>Pete Eshelman suggested collecting additional data on E-bike speeds to establish benchmarks. Mr. Eshelman suggests this would be useful information if there are people opposing the use of E-bikes. Mr. Eshelman provides an example of using a sign that flashes and displays the driver's speed.</p> <p>Sue Williams suggested signs on Wiley Dr. that indicate the direction of vehicles. Ms. Williams continued by stating that families that don't come out often are not aware vehicles are traveling in both directions.</p> <p>Michael Clark responded by stating he has a meeting scheduled with the transportation manager and will voice the concern and suggestion.</p>

	<p>Jared Rigby stated that having a mandated set speed limit would be useful for liability reasons.</p> <p>Michael Clark explained that if speed limits are an administrative rule then city manager approval is needed. If the speed limits are part of city code then city council approval is required.</p> <p>Patrick Boas stated that most greenway entrances have rules and regulations posted. Mr. Boas continued by adding that greenway rules and regulations were previously published on social media platforms.</p> <p>Michael Clark commented that the current greenway signs, in an attempt to prevent sign pollution, are small and need improvement.</p> <p>Luke Priddy stated it will be important to maintain an open conversation with companies managing rental E-bikes. In doing so, this will allow potential problems to be addressed.</p> <p>William Modica stated it will be important to distinguish the difference between E-bikes, motor scooters and motorized vehicles. E-bikes are permitted on the greenway but motor scooters and motorized vehicles are not permitted.</p> <p>A board member reiterated the need for posting speed limits and greenway rules.</p>
Director Comments	<p>Cancellation of special events has allowed the special events support staff to focus on general park amenity repairs; for example playground and bench repairs.</p> <p>The mow cycle is currently on a 17 day mow cycle instead of a 14 day due to heavy rain.</p> <p>A board member asked about progress on the Mill Mountain Wild Flower Garden and the Tinker Creek Greenway project.</p> <p>Michael Clark stated there is still a \$40,000 grant for the Mill Mountain Wild Flower Garden. The grant was donated by the Bernie Carter foundation. The Mill Mountain Wild Flower Garden contract was awarded to Roanoke Landscapes. The garden club decided to use the funds to renovate the two ponds located inside the garden.</p> <p>Michael Clark addressed the board member's Tinker Creek Greenway project question by stating the project will go to bid sometime in spring and the 13<sup>th</sup> St. and Mason Mill entrances may be impacted approximately 1 to 2 years. A pedestrian bridge and an ADA fishing platform will be added to Mason Mill.</p> <p>Michael Clark responded to a board member's question about the reopening of public restrooms by stating the bathrooms have started reopening and two port-a-johns have been placed downtown to accommodate the homeless population.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer stations will be placed at local parks with posted information about the importance of hand sanitizing.</p>

### Section III – New Business Items

Item	Discussion
Pool Operations Discussion	A private group has set up a go fund me page and has raised \$50,000 in two weeks to assist with pools. Pools may reopen during Phase III of the Governor's reopening plan. Pools reopening will also depend on work that

Lee Plaza Discussion	<p>needs to be done to prepare the pools for summer use. Free pool admission has been suggested but there are concerns about overcrowding and meeting the demands of a large number of attendees. Having an adequate number of lifeguards is also a concern. In addition, the expansion joints at both Washington Park Pool and Fallon Park Pool have to be replaced. It will cost approximately \$2-4 million to replace or completely renovate each pool.</p> <p>The Robert E. Lee statue is the only confederate monument in the park system. There is discussion about removing the statue and renaming Lee Plaza. Board members are encouraged to submit to city council ideas and suggestions for renaming Lee Plaza.</p> <p>Changing the name of the plaza will not change how the plaza is used.</p> <p>A motion was made by Luke Priddy, and seconded by Lauren Hartman, to begin the process of renaming Lee Plaza and removing or relocating the Robert E. Lee statue. This motion was supported by all attending board members.</p>
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#### Section IV – Old Business Items

Item	Discussion
N/A	N/A

#### Section V – Other Business Items

Item	Discussion
N/A	N/A

#### Section VI Next Meeting

Title	Name	Position
Chair	Joshua Dietz	Board Chair
Recorder	Michael Clark	Director
Date	Time	Location
21 July 2020	5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	TBD