



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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| Date: | 18 August 2020 | Location: | Zoom |
| Chair: | Joshua Dietz | Recorder: | Michael Clark |
| Call to Order: | 5:32 p.m. | Adjourn: | 6:11 p.m. |

Section I - Attendees

| Name | Position |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Joshua Dietz | Board Chair |
| Lauren Hartman | Board Vice Chair |
| Chris Bryant | Board Member |
| William Modica | Board Member |
| Luke Priddy | Board Member |
| Jerome Stephens | Board Member |
| Sue Williams | Board Member |
| Michael Clark | Director |
| Patrick Boas | Recreation Manager |

Section II - Standing Agenda Items

| Item | Discussion |
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| Call to Order | Joshua Dietz called the meeting to order. |
| Roll Call | Joshua Dietz called roll |
| Approval of Minutes (Action Required) | William Modica made a motion to approve July minutes. Motion seconded by Joshua Dietz. July minutes approved by unanimous vote. |
| Public Comments | N/A |
| Member Comments | <p>William Modica asked when Wiley Drive will reopen. Michael Clark responded stating he has inquired about the reopening of Wiley Drive, but has not received a response. Mr. Clark stated the plan, for now, is that it will remain closed to allow for as much social distancing as possible. There have been complaints from citizens because the closing of Wiley Drive has caused limited parking for those using the River's Edge South fields. There have also been complaints because the temporary closing of Wiley Drive has made the Smith Park shelter inaccessible.</p> <p>Sue Williams asked if the playground at Smith Park was open. Michael Clark stated the park is open. Ms. Williams continued by stating that Smith park is an ADA approved playground and it will be difficult for parents if they are unable to park nearby. Mr. Clark agreed and added that is the reason that section is left as a public road.</p> <p>Luke Priddy asked if consideration was given to opening Wiley Drive to allow for one way traffic flow to allow for parking along the greenway. Mr. Priddy continued by asking who would make the decision to close the road permanently. Michael Clark responded stating the decision would be made by the City Manager. Mr. Clark added there was a discussion about opening the side of Wiley Drive closest to the fields. Mr. Clark stated he hasn't received a definite date on the reopening of Wiley Drive.</p> <p>Luke Priddy commented there is graffiti on the Franklin Road Bridge. Mr. Priddy stated he emailed the department using a new form the City implemented. When Mr. Priddy did not get a response after approximately one month; he then forwarded the email directly to the assigned department and received a response in approximately five minutes. Mr. Priddy was</p> |

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| | <p>informed the bridge would be painted when the weather permitted.</p> <p>Michael Clark responded by saying he will follow up with the Community Engagement Manager.</p> <p>Joshua Dietz asked if the various social trails leading to the river are mowed to allow for easy access. Mr. Clark answered stating those areas are mowed approximately once or twice a year.</p> |
| Director Comments | <p>Michael Clark stated City Council moved forward with removing the monument from Lee Plaza.</p> <p>Mr. Clark asked if there were questions pertaining to the monthly status report.</p> <p>Joshua Dietz asked if the lower bridge on the river would be removed allowing for boat access. Mr. Clark responded stating the Regional Blueway Committee is conducting a feasibility study for replacing the bridge and construction of a taller bridge. Mr. Clark continued by stating he is unable to provide a definite timeline and there is no funding for the actual project.</p> <p>Luke Priddy asked about the capital outlay funds designated for the bus station and the status of the project. Michael Clark responded there is an ongoing conversation with the City Manager about how to move forward with the project. There is no definitive answer regarding funds for the project.</p> |

Section III - New Business Items

| Item | Discussion |
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| CARES Act Funding-Parks and Recreation Projects | <p>Michael Clark provided an update on the status of the Cares Act funding for Parks and Recreation. A decision has not been made on the amount of money Parks and Recreation will receive from the Cares Act. Two payment distributions are anticipated from the Cares Act. The first payment distribution could be used to design a mobile skate park that can be transported and set up in various parks. The Skate Park Initiative's goal is to identify small neighborhood parks that can accommodate the mobile skate park while the original skate park is being restored. Another potential project funded by the Cares Act is a mobile recreation fitness center in the form of a van or utility truck. The mobile fitness center will have exercise equipment such as jump ropes, fitness balls and various playground equipment. There is a proposal to use the funding to improve the virtual learning equipment and software at the recreation centers. This will be beneficial because the first nine weeks of school in the City will be 100% online.</p> <p>The Cares Act funding could potentially be used to establish a temporary maintenance workforce. This workforce would consist of six or seven people assigned to help maintain parks and trails. These employees would work through the calendar year.</p> <p>It has been suggested to use the Cares Act funding to install heavy duty hand sanitizing equipment in parks and park bathrooms. Included in this project would be center line marking for the Roanoke River Greenway. This marking will extend from Vic Thomas Park to Piedmont Park. This project's funding may allow for upgrades to the parking lots at Fishburn Park and Grandin Court Recreation Center. The Grandin Court Recreation Center will serve as a virtual learning center provided adequate staffing is available.</p> <p>The second Cares Act distribution payment may be used to make repairs to well used tennis and basketball courts. There is the option of using the funds to purchase a high resolution mobile LED screen. This mobile screen will be used for group fitness, movies in the park, social events at Elmwood Park and</p> |

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| | <p>E-gaming competitions. This funding will extend to improve parking lot and trailhead improvements at the following locations: Piedmont Park, Shrine Hill Park and Wasena Park.</p> <p>The challenge is that money received from the Cares Act must be spent by the end of the calendar year.</p> <p>Joshua Dietz asked if new equipment could be purchased in advance to make improvements as the need presented itself. For example, new tennis nets. Michael Clark responded that in some instances advance purchases can be made. However, the vast majority of courts were installed during the 1970's and are in need of extensive repair; these type of repairs require a bid.</p> <p>Joshua Dietz asked what type of surface will replace the existing parking lot surfaces. Mr. Clark responded the replacement surface and improvements will depend on available funds and overall cost of the improvement.</p> |
| <p>City Code Ordinance Discussion</p> | <p>Joshua Dietz provided a review of ordinances governing City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation. Mr. Dietz focused on established ordinances that may be presented to City Council for review and possible modification. Any changes to city ordinances have to be approved by City Council. Municode.com is an available resource for researching City Codes throughout the U.S. The City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation codes may be referenced in Chapter 24, Article IV.</p> <p>Luke Priddy stated he would like to review the ordinances prior to voicing any recommendations.</p> <p>William Modica asked if the ordinances were state or local. Joshua Dietz responded stating these are local ordinances.</p> <p>Luke Priddy asked for a copy of the ordinances pertaining to The City of Roanoke Parks and Recreation for review.</p> <p>Michael Clark stated the Clerk's Office maintains an archive of previously established ordinances. Mr. Clark recommended using this valuable resource. Mr. Clark continued by stating Parks and Recreation initiated a couple of updates to the ordinance for definition clarity. Two examples were presented. The first example examined if Wells Fargo Plaza is defined in the ordinance as a plaza or public right of way. The second example stated greenways are not clearly defined in the City of Roanoke's ordinance.</p> <p>Sue Williams recommended identifying old and irrelevant ordinances that were applied inequitably to different populations.</p> <p>Luke Priddy asked for information detailing penalties and prosecution for existing, presumably outdated, ordinances.</p> <p>Joshua Dietz stated violation of the ordinances being examined are class 4 misdemeanors and carry a maximum fine of \$250.00. Prosecution is unlikely; however, that is determined by the Commonwealth Attorney's Office.</p> |

Section IV – Old Business Items

| Item | Discussion |
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| N/A | N/A |

Section V – Other Business Items

| Item | Discussion |
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| N/A | N/A |

Section VI Next Meeting

| Title | Name | Position |
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| Chair | Joshua Dietz | Board Chair |
| Recorder | Michael Clark | Director |

| Date | Time | Location |
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| 15 September 2020 | 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. | TBD |

