

**FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of April 18, 2019**

The April meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, April 18, 2019 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center.

Commissioners Present: Mr. David Dorsey, Mr. Cameron John, Mr. Brandon McVade, Mrs. Sharon Null, Dr. Marcus Tepaske Absent: Mr. James Bailey, Dr. Tim Duffy, Dr. John Russ, Mrs. Sue Sargeant
Also in attendance: Director Jane Shelhorse, Mrs. Janice Lasker

- I. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of March 21, 2019 were approved.

- II. **Introduction of “Nature Staff”**- Zach Naegele is our new Nature Program Supervisor. Zach is a graduate of West Virginia University with a degree in Recreation, Parks and Tourism Resources and a minor in Adventure Sports leadership. He has spent the last several years living and working in remote locations in Yosemite National Park as an Interpretive Naturalist. He enjoys climbing, hiking, and mountain biking and prefers any time spent outdoors. Zach joined the Department at a busy time and has jumped right in to the planning for Earth Day. Alexa Harris is our Nature Education Coordinator, and she has been holding the department together for the past year as our part time staff person. Alexa has two sons, one of whom has a rare genetic disorder that requires him to be in a wheel chair. She and her husband were instrumental in getting Stafford County to build an adaptive playground, in honor of their son, at Chichester Park. Because she knows many families who want their children to be involved in all-inclusive, no-boundaries activities, Alexa is helping to develop programs that will give these families more opportunities to participate.

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

IV. Communications from Director:

- A. Financial Report** – Director Shelhorse shared the financial reports through March 2019. Rental revenue is up due to equipment rentals for Special Events.
- B. Leisure Report** – The Department is continuing to work on the pool, and we are still challenged with finding lifeguards. The dog egg hunt was a huge success.
- C. Special Events** – Picnic in the Park is getting ready to start.
- D. Sports and Parks** – We have changed the policy on casts in our sports programs. Casts are now allowed when wrapped in padding and when the game official determines that the cast is safe for play. Memorial Park restroom building is out for bids. Bike racks will be installed at three park locations as part of an Eagle Scout project.

- V. Noteworthy Dates** – Director Shelhorse reviewed upcoming dates. The Farmers Market opens for the season Saturday, April 20. Earth Day is April 27th at Old Mill Park. Mother/Son Dance is May 3.

VI. Old Business:


- A. Rock the Red** – We have signed a contract with W. C. Spratt. Delivery by the Capitals will be ready for June or July if we are ready to proceed at that time. Commissioner Dorsey asked to see a site plan for the rink to better understand exactly where in Dixon Park it will be located.
- B. Riverfront Park** – The 90% plans have been submitted and the project is almost ready to go out for bid.
- C. Strategic Plan for Parks** – Director Shelhorse shared that we have two excellent bids, and we are meeting with the companies on April 22 to see if we can bridge the gap in the price before making a commitment.
- D. City Branding Project** – The City is hoping to have a new logo by next fall.
- E. Director's Fund** – No real update since it still needs to be presented to City Council. The fund cannot be publicized until it is presented to City Council. David Dorsey and Marcus Tepaske would like to be part of a committee that will help publicize the fund.

F. Memorial Park Restrooms – Mike Ward gave a pre-bid tour of the site to the companies interested in bidding on the project.

VII. New Business – Director Shelhorse has reached out to other Commissions in the City and would like them to attend our May meeting to share information and promote awareness of what we each do. The Commissioners would like them to attend the May meeting.

VIII. Directors/Commission Concerns and Topics – Commissioner Null expressed concern about the upcoming water slide event. Her concern regards allowing adults to slide alongside small children. She would like to see it be better monitored to only allow similar ages/sizes to slide congruently. The slide will be on William Street from College Avenue to Sunken Road. Commissioner Tepaske has been approached by a citizen who would like the City to have sand volleyball courts available for use. Director Shelhorse mentioned that the Department is trying to work with the UMW Athletic Department to allow the City to use some of their facilities. They have a sand volleyball court near the parking garage. Commissioner McVade thanked the Commissioners for the time they devote to the Department as he is very aware that nothing happens without volunteers. Director Shelhorse shared that the City has put money in the CIP for a walkway from the VCR trail to the restrooms in Alum Spring Park.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

 5/16/19
Jane C. Shelhorse Date
Director

Next Meeting Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Dorothy Hart Community Center