

**FREDERICKSBURG  
RECREATION COMMISSION  
Minutes of May 16, 2019**

The May meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center.

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

- I. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of April 18, 2019 were approved.
  
- II. **Presentation from Rob Maple, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance** – Rob Maple, President of the Alliance explained that they are a group of volunteers who joined together in 2017 from two trail groups that had been in existence. FATMUG was involved in trail maintenance, and FAMBE was involved with trail biking events. The two groups combined and now share the responsibilities of moving, constructing, and maintaining trails, as well as, planning recreational events on trails. The Alliance consists of mountain bikers, hikers, runners, bird watchers and anyone who enjoys trails. With the help of grants obtained by their Grants Coordinator, Lindy Kirkland, they have worked with the City to improve access to the quarry trails, and have developed trails at Motts Reservoir. The ultimate goal is to complete a trail from the Virginia Outdoor Center to Motts Reservoir that will give users miles of continuous trails. Rather than closing trails, Fredericksburg Trails Alliance has created signs at trail heads indicating safety levels for trails under different conditions. An app called Avenza is available on the Fredericksburg Trails Alliance website, and gives detailed markings of all the area trails. Lindy Kirkland recommended that as planners, we go to the International Mountain Biking Association website and check the Resources tab to see the economic impact that trails have had on communities worldwide.



- III. Opportunity for Public Comment** – Paula Chow, representing the Rappahannock Group Sierra Club, gave a presentation on the group’s Pass on Plastic campaign. The Department has given full permission for the Sierra Club to work with two vendors at the Farmers Market, Valdez Produce and C&T Produce, since the Department doesn’t have the resources to support the campaign. There are signs posted at the market advertising the campaign, and they would like the Department to advertise bringing reusable bags to the market in our brochure and on our website. Currently, the Sierra Club is providing a reusable mesh bag to customers as part of the campaign.
- IV. Communications from Director:**
- A. Financial Report** – Director Shelhorse reviewed the reports and noted there is nothing unusual in the reports.
  - B. Leisure Report** – The Department is continuing to work on the pool, and we have contracted with Commonwealth Aquatics for lifeguards. This contract will allow us to keep the pool open normal hours, and the cost is still within our budget. We have a Great American Campout planned at Dixon Park on June 21 and 22. Earth Day was a huge success.
  - C. Special Events** – Picnic in the Park had 400 people on a beautiful first day. We are looking for a sponsor for the Christmas Parade. The report included a list of the current year calendar of special events.
  - D. Sports and Parks** – Soccer and field hockey are ending. We had one soccer coach allow a player not on the roster to play in the team’s semi-final game, so the championship game is being replayed. The damage to the playground at Alum Springs from fallen trees is estimated to be \$6000. We are looking for a contractor to repair one of the docks at Motts, which warped from being underwater most of the winter. Seventy trees have fallen recently at Motts. Director Shelhorse shared a procedure pertaining to service animals at Motts. The guideline will help the staff at Motts with enforcement and help people with dogs understand the policy.
- V. Noteworthy Dates** – Director Shelhorse reviewed upcoming dates. Marine Corps Historic Half is Sunday, May 19, 2019. Pool opens May 25. Annual Photography Show is June 6 – 9.



**VI. Old Business:**

- A. Rock the Red** – Earth is being moved at Dixon Park for the hockey rink, and if weather permits, it is expected to take about six weeks to complete the City's portion of the rink. A programming meeting for hockey will be held Monday, May 20. Fundraising for the rink is ongoing, and Commissioner McVade's Fredericksburg Hockey club has about \$15K to contribute to the project. They will continue to be a booster for the rink, and to date, the Fredanthropists program started by EDT has had five donors contribute to the rink. These donors will get advertising at the rink and on the Fredericksburg Trolley.
- B. Riverfront Park** – Work is continuing.
- C. Strategic Plan for Parks** – Director Shelhorse shared that we have chosen Lose Consulting to develop the plan. The bid is still over budget by about \$12k, but that price includes optional plans for facilities maintenance and grounds maintenance plans. Director Shelhorse explained that the 10-year plan will look at what we currently have, and give recommendations as to what needs to be added, updated and developed. The company will engage with residents, have workshops, and collect and give feedback to the Department. The commissioners voted to endorse moving forward with Lose for the plan.
- D. City Branding Project** – Hub Consulting will be back in July with their recommendations after having met with City staff and residents recently for input.
- E. Director's Fund** – Director Shelhorse has gotten approval to start advertising the fund.
- F. Memorial Park Restrooms** – The Department has contracted with Smith Midland for the project, and it should be complete in late August.
- G. Clean and Green Commission** – They will try to send someone to our June meeting to share information about their role in the City.

**VII. New Business**—The Commission voted to not hold a July meeting but has agreed to attend a grand opening of the hockey rink if it is completed by July.



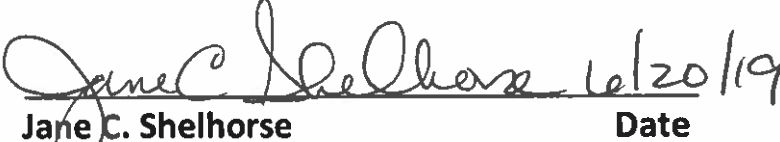






**VIII. Directors/Commission Concerns and Topics** – Commissioner Null shared concerns from a citizen who had seen a couple of large groups using Memorial Park on two dates in April. Not being aware of the Department policy on groups utilizing the park, Commissioner Null asked how a citizen would report this on the weekend when the center is closed. Also, is there a sign posted with suggested ages for use of the playground? Commissioner Null received positive feedback on the replacement two rail fence that staff recently installed at the park . Commissioner Sargeant attended both recent branding meetings and noted that it was stated that people are no longer moving to a town to find jobs. They are looking for a community, and then hoping the community will attract businesses. Commissioner Dorsey liked the new layout of Earth Day. Doug Fawcett informed us that Stafford County is probably going to close Falmouth Park if it floods again. The City is concerned about the impact its closing would have on Old Mill Park since people want river access. The City Manager has asked Director Shelhorse to come up with a plan in case it does close since we had overcrowding issues last summer at OMP when Falmouth Park was closed. Like the City, Stafford is concerned about safety.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

  
Jane C. Shelhorse  
Director

16/20/19  
Date

**Next Meeting Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Dorothy Hart Community Center**

