

**FREDERICKSBURG
RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of September 19, 2019**

The September meeting of the Fredericksburg Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at the Dorothy Hart Community Center.

Commissioners Present: Chairman David Dorsey, Mr. Brandon McVade, Mrs. Sharon Null, Mrs. Sue Sargeant, Mr. Cameron John, Mr. Eric Keeler, Dr. Tim Duffy, Dr. John Russ, Mr. DaCorey Carter Also in attendance: Director Jane Shelhorse

- I. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of August 13, 2019 were approved.

- II. After a motion by Commissioner Sargeant, the Commissioners agreed to have the Fall 2019 Tree Planting Plan for Parks moved to the start of the meeting. Carl Little explained the plan to plant trees at the bus stops at Snowden and Dixon Parks in order to provide shade at the stops. Anne and Carl shared detailed plans for replacing dead trees in several of our parks, and discussed succession planning for new trees in our parks and throughout the City. Detailed plans are included in the minutes. Director Shelhorse noted that Department staff would like to plant a low canopy tree in Alum Spring Park in honor of Pete Martin, a staff member who passed away last year.

- III. Sarah Hurst, Clean and Green Commission – Sarah explained that the Commission is separated into three subcommittees: Green, Clean and Sustainable. Anne Little heads up the Green segment, which is responsible for tree planting and caring for the large planter pots throughout the City. The Clean segment is working with City schools to get recycling up and running. The Clean group heads up the “Butts are Litter too” campaign, and has recently obtained butt butlers, donated by Keep VA Clean, which were installed on trash cans in our parks and near City businesses. The Sustainable segment is working with the Brisben Center to get them running solely on solar energy, which will save them \$25K per year in energy bills, and will provide jobs in solar energy installation. They are working with Fredericksburg Baseball to get the stadium running as green and sustainable as possible.

IV. Opportunity for Public Comment – none

V. Communications from the Director:

A. Commission List – updated

B. Financial Reports – Director Shelhorse noted that revenue and expenditures are up from last year, and the revenue increase is due to events and equipment rentals; Motts revenue is down, possibly due to the revised school calendar and the hot weather; pool expenses are higher due to contracting lifeguards and the need for more guards with the pool at full capacity most days.

C. Leisure Services – Soggy Doggy had over 200 dogs; the Department is hosting a community block party Friday, Sept. 20 to meet and thank neighbors.

D. Special Events – The Department is hosting BeeFlix movies in Hurkamp Park. There will be a Veteran’s Day procession similar to last year on Veteran’s Day.

E. Sports – Soccer and field hockey are nearly complete. The damaged playground at Alum Spring has been removed, and the plan is to use the Director’s Fund and insurance funds to replace the playground. The Department will allocate funds in the budget to install ADA accessible ramps to the bathrooms from the VCR trail.

F. Director Shelhorse shared a complimentary email on Zach Naegele.

VI. Noteworthy Dates:

Director Shelhorse reviewed noteworthy dates and discussed a City Values Event at the Fairgrounds on 9/24 and 9/25 to include employee recognition. She made particular mention of a Big Fall Clean UP at Old Mill Park and a Canal Clean up, both in October. October 27 is the hockey rink ribbon cutting.

VII. Old Business:

A. Rock the Red Project – the surface is scheduled to be installed next week, and the scoreboard is done. Once the surface is done, the rink will be complete, and the sponsor logos on the dasher boards can be installed.

B. Riverfront Park- still waiting on bids.

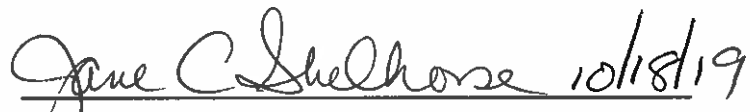
- C. **Strategic Plan for Parks** –survey is out; please encourage people to respond
- D. **City Branding Project** – no update
- E. **Director’s Fund** – have one anonymous matching \$10,000 donation, and Director Shelhorse is hoping others will contribute
- F. **Memorial Park Restroom** – will be installed on October 11, 2019.

VIII. New Business –

- A. **Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event** will be November 21 from 6 to 8pm and will be the same format as last year, except with more tables. Staff would like to give a coin along with a microwaveable, multiuse, silicone cup. The NRPA conference is in Baltimore next week, and staff may come back with a different gift idea.
- B. **Fall tree planning** – Director Shelhorse asked Commissioners for input on the plan. Commissioners voted to approve the plan.

- IX. Director/Commission Concerns and Topics** - Commissioner Sargeant asked if the Department has a best practice plan to say no to balloon releases in parks. She mentioned the inconsistent locking of the restrooms in Hurkamp Park. Commissioner Null thanked Director Shelhorse and Commissioner McVade for getting the Director’s Fund established and for all the work they did to get the hockey rink complete. Commissioner Dorsey confirmed there is a \$250 minimum fine for littering in our parks, and noted that dog waste is considered litter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.


Jane C. Shelhorse 10/18/19
Jane C. Shelhorse Date
Director

Next Meeting Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:30pm at the Dorothy Hart Community Center