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City of Salisbury, Maryland
Parks & Recreation Committee
July 22, 2021

Minutes

<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
David Plotts, Chairman	April Jackson, City Council Liason
Dr. Joseph Anderson, Vice Chairman	Chris Roberts, Committee Member
David Herrick, Secretary	Dominique Sessa, Committee Member
Doug Draper, Parks Superintendent	Dr. Bronte' Dashiell, Committee Member
Alyssa Hastings, Sustainability Specialist	
Mike Perry, Committee Member	
Mike Piorunski, Committee Member	

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8 **Call to Order:** David Plotts called the meeting to order at 6:00PM at Doverdale Park, 922 Johnson
9 St. Salisbury, MD 21804.

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11 **Minute:** Mr. Plotts distributed copies of the minutes from the May 12, 2021 meeting. A motion
12 was made by Mike Piorunski to accept the minutes as read. Said motion was seconded by Mike
13 Perry and carried to approve.

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15 **Park Review:** Doverdale Park appeared to be in overall good condition except for some benches
16 that needed painting and the drinking fountain was not working but Mr. Draper said that might be
17 due to COVID restrictions. Several basketball courts and the soccer field were in use at the time.
18 The sun was bright so Mr. Piorunski suggested the group investigate the quality of the shade in the
19 grove of trees on the south side of the park which we did. Mike Perry took note of sucker growth on
20 a nearby cherry tree and offered to remove them with his pocketknife. Mr. Draper did not respond to
21 the offer.

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23 **Other Business:** Doug Draper said the parks department has a new budget which allows for new
24 equipment including a multiuse Polar Track mower, a new pickup truck and a new mower/bushhog.
25 Also, wood rot at the City Park bandstand will be replaced in time for the next Summer Concert in
26 the Park. Regarding the upcoming National Folk Festival, Mr. Draper said his department will clean
27 up with city staff and also be performing weed control along the streets which statement elicited a
28 look of dismay from Ms. Hastings, the city's sustainability specialist. Alyssa mentioned that there
29 will be no composting receptacles this year but that recycling will continue with volunteers providing
30 assistance and that the raingardens and bioretention areas will be maintained by Atmos Energy. Ms.
31 Hastings said the water refill station in the City Park has been approved for an upgrade that includes
32 a drinking fountain. She also mentioned that Rachel Manning, City Community Relations Manager,
33 will guide a walk around Waterside Park this coming Wednesday from 5 – 7PM and that the city has
34 hired a planner tasked with compiling a city park inventory. Alyssa also mentioned she was in
35 discussion with Chesapeake Utilities to plant trees around the parks and she then recommended Mr.
36 Draper oversee park inspection and maintenance while she would work on grants and community
37 assistance for the parks. In that vein, David Plotts and Alyssa met with Amanda Pollack, Director of
38 Infrastructure and Development, asking for funding for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan but was
39 denied because Amanda was unsure if it was needed but at the same time she would like the parks
40 department to have a cohesive plan for park improvements?? The subject of bike trails was brought
41 up by Mike Perry after talking with Alex McRae who is a member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian
42 Advisory Committee (BPAC) that is attempting to create a continuous recreation trail from Salisbury
43 to Naylor Mill Park but is being thwarted by Wicomico County refusal to allow right of way on their
44 property but said property ownership is in question and may not be controlled by the county. Mr.
45 Draper thought there was an avenue for negotiations leading to resolution. As an aside, Will Dyer,

46 Forest Steward with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources will survey for invasive species
47 at Naylor Mill Park. The continued absence of the city council liaison, April Jackson, at our
48 meetings was noted and various reasons for her nonattendance were put forth by committee members
49 but at this point her motives are unknown.

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51 **Park Amenity Donation and Tree Planting Policy:** Discussion was held concerning the proposed
52 policy for donations and memorial requests. After reading the proposal the committee made changes
53 that improved the policy's verbal consistency and, acting on questions raised by Mr. Piourunski, the
54 committee further defined how trees were to be planted which included asking individuals to follow
55 the recommendations of the U. of Maryland Extension Service for tree planting. Mr. Plotts added that
56 any donations to the parks will not need to go before city council for approval. He also thought that
57 generating a searchable database of donated trees and other memorials would add to the public
58 involvement. Finally, Alyssa cautioned that a legal advisor will need sign off on the final policy
59 wording before submission.

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61 **Adjournment:** Since there was no more immediate business for the committee to discuss
62 adjournment was agreed by consent at 7:10PM.

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65 David Herrick
66 Secretary

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