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City of Salisbury, Maryland
Parks & Recreation Committee
June 9, 2022

Minutes

<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
<u>David Plotts, Chairperson</u>	
Mike Piorunski, Vice Chairperson	Dr. Joe Anderson, Committee Member
David Herrick, Secretary	April Jackson, City Council Liaison
Doug Draper, Parks Superintendent	Dominique Sessa, Committee Member
Mary Grace Kiley, Committee Member	Alyssa Hastings, Sustainability Specialist
Mike Perry, Committee Member	

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8 **Call to Order:** David Plotts called the meeting to order at 6:05PM at the Amphitheater on
9 Riverwalk, Salisbury, MD 21804.

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11 **Minutes:** David Herrick distributed copies of the minutes from the March 10, 2022, and April 14,
12 2022, meetings. A motion was made by Mike Perry to amend line 25 of the March minutes with
13 “ATVs” to replace “4x4s”. Mary Kiley made a motion to approve minutes as amended. Said motion
14 was seconded by Mike Piorunshi and carried to approve.

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16 **Park Review:** Riverwalk Park, the Amphitheater and its environs appeared well maintained but the
17 concrete sidewalk that follows the Wicomico River is crumbling due to a bad mix during application.
18 Repairs are planned. Mike Pioruski commented on the long distance between trash receptacles when
19 he went to dispose of his paper cake plate which had previously contained a portion of delicious
20 Banana Rum Cake prepared by Mary Kiley. A less considerate person than himself, it was noted,
21 would be tempted to just chuck it into the river. Doug Draper discussed plans for Bocce ball courts,
22 a beer stand and firepits off of E. Market Street on Riverwalk and although, as Mr. Piorunski pointed
23 out, open fires are not allowed in city limits these will be allowed because they will be contained.
24 Bulkhead replacement on the Wicomico River between Circle Ave. and the bookstore building is
25 ongoing. Yoga classes are being offered at the Amphitheater and are free to city employees under
26 their Health and Wellness initiative. Some committee members questioned the appearance of this
27 arrangement and wished for more details but since no city employees have ever actually been
28 observed participating in said Yoga classes further investigation was deemed unwarranted. Mr.
29 Draper informed the committee of activities at the City Park which included several private events
30 using park facilities, concerts at the Bandstand starting this Friday evening, trimming of selected
31 riverside growth, a successful fishing derby, a camping trip by the Boy Scouts of America at the
32 aptly named scout field on N. Park Drive and the final phase of the skate park scheduled for
33 construction later this year. Some committee members have continued concerns with the proposed
34 tennis center slated for the old ballfield across the river from Ben’s Red Swings. Questioning the
35 need for that facility, Ms. Kiley has taken time to note usage of the existing courts in City Park and
36 her observations have concluded that nobody is waiting to play nor clamoring for more tennis courts
37 due to overcrowding and that rumors of pickle ball lines being drawn on the courts causing hordes of
38 pickle ballers to descend and compete for playing time are unfounded since new pickle ball courts
39 are planned nearby at the YMCA. Mr. Draper revealed that there have been serious incidents of
40 vandalism at Woodcock Park including graffiti and arson. The perpetrators are still at large. He also
41 mentioned that park employees were activated for the Jake Copeland concert downtown where an
42 estimated 5,000 people came to listen to Salisbury’s own American Idol star. Some committee
43 members were dubious of that crowd estimate by city staff and cautioned that such numbers were
44 historically prone to exaggeration. In mentioning Schumaker Pond, Mr. Draper said that his

45 department does coordinate with Wicomico County parks department to maintain the pond and he
46 routinely borrows equipment and boats to perform such work. Finally, all city park employees have
47 just completed classes for expert roadside tree care.
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49 **Other Business:** There is general disappointment and frustration among committee members
50 concerning a lack of recognition of the Parks and Recreation Committee and acknowledgement of its
51 contributions by the Mayor's Office and the City Council. We are not being informed of decisions
52 that greatly affect the city parks, the current liaison from City Council has never attended any
53 meeting and our suggestions for park improvements seems to fall on deaf ears. Communication
54 between the city and our committee, as it was intended, does not exist. Mr. Herrick suggested we
55 change our name to the Parks and Recreation Social Club. A suggestion that committee members
56 attend the Mayor's Open Office Day to speak directly about park issues found general support.
57 Finally, Mr. Draper informed the committee that he has decided to retire from civil service after
58 more than 31 years of continuous employment with the City of Salisbury. His knowledge of the city
59 park system and experience with day-to-day operations has influenced many of the committee's
60 decisions and his presence will be sorely missed. We wish him luck and prosperity in his future
61 endeavors. His replacement will be Lou DeGeorge - who we hope to meet at the next Parks and
62 Recreation Committee meeting.
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65 **Adjournment:** Since there was no more immediate business for the committee to discuss, a motion
66 to adjourn was made by David Herrick, seconded by Mike Piorunski and committee voted to adjourn
67 at 7:15PM.
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