

City of Salisbury, Maryland
Parks & Recreation Committee
August 11, 2022

Minutes

<u>Present</u>	<u>Present</u>
David Plotts, Chairperson	Rachel Manning, Community Relations Mgr.
Mike Piorunski, Vice Chairperson	
David Herrick, Secretary	Not Present
Lou DeGeorge, Parks Team Leader	Dominique Sessa, Committee Member
Sam Ireland, Deputy Dir. Field Operations	April Jackson, City Council Liaison
Mike Perry, Committee Member	Mary Grace Kelley, Committee Member
Duc Trieu, Parks Manager	Alyssa Hastings, Sustainability Specialist
Mike Jarrell, Resident	
Alex McRae, BPAC	

Call to Order: David Plotts called the meeting to order at 6:25PM at Woodcock Park, Riverside Dr., Salisbury, MD 21804.

Minutes: David Herrick distributed copies of the minutes from the July 14, 2022 meeting. A motion was made by Mike Piorunski to amend line 24 of said minutes with “grounds were well maintained but playground equipment and basketball court needed improvement and the concession stand was underutilized “ to replace “in good shape”. Mike Perry made a motion to amend line 21 to read “from” instead of “form” The motions to approve minutes as amended was seconded by Mr. Herrick and carried to approve.

Parks Review: Duc Trieu introduced himself as the new City of Salisbury Parks Manager. He was previously employed as Program Director at Washington County Recreation Department for 13 years before making a move from the mountains to the shore. Jumping right in, Mr. Trieu updated the committee on flower plantings downtown in preparation for the National Folk Festival in September and a major park cleanup event in November. Mulching and tree limb removal for Safety Zone and Lake Street were discussed along with storm damaged tree removal in City Park and Waterside where park equipment was severely impacted. Mr. Piorunski cautioned against planting any trees near the new Beer Garden structure for that reason. Mr. Trieu mentioned he has met with members of the Layton family in reference to Ben’s Red Swings at City Park. As to Woodcock Park, local resident Mike Jarrell said that small fires in pile of pine needles were an issue and some of the playground amenities were outdated but maintenance was good. Rachel Manning expressed surprise at the large turnout for last years Neighborhood Walk program at Woodcock which indicated potential, if not current, local involvement and interest but she qualified that statement saying that high attendance might have been the result of free hot dogs. Sam Ireland and Alyssa Hastings coordinated a walk-through in City Park noting invasive plant species and formulating a plan for control. Spraying herbicide in such habitat is problematic because of the proximity of rivers and wetlands. Mr. Ireland is hoping to address the same issue in Naylor Mill Park where the existence of the public water aquifer requires even more caution. Mr. Piorunski found fault with all the investment in downtown areas while the outlying parks lack attention and funding from city government. Mr. Plotts believed that was the result of a lack of City Parks master plan which has not been funded as requested.

Other Business: Community outreach relative to city parks was discussed with banners, QR codes and basketball tournaments all mentioned as possibilities but any idea will be considered. Ms. Manning said that the last Summerfest event will be at Lake Street. She also announced that Robert Reed, Community Program Director at Newton Community Center, has begun an NFL flag football

44 initiative and will be using certain park fields for games. Even though uniforms will be provided, it
45 is still a cost-effective way of promoting recreation in city parks and surrounding areas explaining
46 that Salisbury needs to create recreation opportunities in the park system. Mr. Perry thought that a
47 newsletter promoting park facilities would be a good idea and Ms. Manning offered to include any
48 submissions from the committee into her monthly newsletter that reaches people in many levels of
49 the community and city government. Finally, Mr. Perry introduced Alex McRae, representing the
50 Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC), who believed that it would be beneficial to
51 both committees to conduct coordinated meetings for more effective communication and promotion
52 of complementary projects. Committee members thought that was a good idea and we might well
53 accommodate that suggestion.
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55 **Adjournment:** Since there was no more immediate business for the committee to discuss, a motion
56 to adjourn was made by David Herrick, seconded by Mike Perry and committee voted to adjourn at
57 7:15PM.
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61 Secretary
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