

**Minutes  
Parks & Recreation Committee  
June 12, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.  
Manassas Museum – Multi-Purpose Room**

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Lawrence Smith at 7:00 p.m.

**Determination of a Quorum:**

A majority of the board is present.

**Parks and Recreation Committee Members in Attendance:** Lynn Forkell, Mike Freeland, Robert Keller, Clara Meagher, Mark Rabatin, Malcolm Richards, Lawrence Smith, Ivan Soto, Christina VandenBosche

**Alternate Parks and Recreation Committee Members in Attendance:** None

**Parks and Recreation Committee Members Absent:** None

**Alternate Parks and Recreation Committee Members Absent:** Paul Dresler

**City Council Member Liaisons:** Councilwoman Michelle Davis-Younger – Present

**Community Development Staff in Attendance:** Elizabeth Via-Gossman, Director

**Museum Staff in Attendance:** Kisha Wilson-Sogunro, Manager, Parks, Culture & Recreation; Jean Griffith, Administrative Associate

**Others in Attendance:** Council Member Pam Sebesky, David Reed

**Approval of Minutes of May 8, 2019:**

Mike Freeland moved to approve the minutes as written, and Bob Keller seconded the motion. The chair opened the floor for discussion, and there was no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

**Chairs' Comments and Announcements:**

Lawrence Smith did not have any announcements.

**Council Member:** Councilwoman Davis-Younger no report.

**Historic Resources Board (HRB) Liaison Report:**

Bob Keller reported that HRB is still working on their Strategic Plan. In addition, they are in discussion on renovations/improvements to the Museum if it is adopted in the FY21 budget.

**Reminders:**

No reminders presented.

### **Manager's Report:**

- Kisha Wilson-Sogunro reported they have completed interviews for the Recreation Supervisor to start July 1.
- Jennie Dean now has a GoFund me page through the Manassas Museum Associates and encourages the members to take a look at that. Councilmember Davis-Younger will be teaming up with her on some fundraising.

### **HEAL Subcommittee Report:**

- Richard Malcolm reported that he did not have anything to report. However, he felt we are losing our momentum and wants the committee to look into some projects and how we should continue moving on.
- Lynn Forkell reported that she and Mark Rabatin have heard back from Baldwin principal has requested a curriculum to work with. The superintendent is on board with this as well.
- Ms. Forkell also said there is a grant that she has been researching and she suggest that they should look into those. She will report back to the committee.
- Ms. Wilson-Sogunro reported that the Boys and Girls club has received some funds to implement the HEAL initiative at their location with a garden.
- Mark Rabatin shared that Merrifield would be willing to help in any way they can.

### **Old Business:**

#### **Greenleaf Community Conversation**

- Kisha Wilson-Sogunro reported that it was well attended. It was felt that the folks were happy to connect with their community.
- Bob Keller shared that he was thinking it may be a positive approach for the Parks & Recreation Committee to host similar gatherings whether it be for a specific topic or just a social event to get together.
- Ms. Wilson-Sogunro shared that an idea the staff has had is to have a Parks Information Day.
- Larry Smith shared he was impressed with the community and was pleased with the turn out.
- Elizabeth Via-Gossman took the floor with an overview of what the Parks & Recreation Committee's role is and how to achieve that. Tonight is a debriefing on how the community conversation went. Ms. Via-Gossman returned the floor to the Chair to open the floor for discussion.
  - The Beautification Committee brought to the Parks & Recreation Committee this greenspace to be named as a park.
  - The post-it comments were on display for the group to review. The two strong opinions are leave it alone or assign and put on a map.

#### **The Parks & Recreation Committee comments:**

- The park could be quiet place to come and just relax.
- Being a pocket park, it should not have impact on parking.

- The question of liability came up and Ms. Vis-Gossman explained that the designation has no impact on that.
- There was a feeling that the neighborhood seem to be content with leaving it as is.
- Efforts should be put toward existing parks.
- Making any changes, would disrupt its current use that neighbors appear to be happy with.
- A trash can, can also welcome unsightly trash. Also creates maintenance.
- Passive with a bench.
- Placing a sign identifying as a park, this could actually be a plus to the homeowners.
- Passive greenspace is great, but focus should be on the active parks and letting the community be aware of what we have.
- It is not a buildable lot.

Malcolm Richards made a motion to not make a recommendation, until we are given direction from City Council to do so, and Ivan Soto seconded the motion. The floor was open for discussion. Malcom Richards rescinded his motion, Lynn Forkell seconded the motion.

Mark Rabatin made a motion to make a formal response to the Beautification Committee that Parks & Recreation Committee do not recommend designating this a park and do not take action, and Malcom Richards seconded the motion. The floor was opened for discussion. The chair called a question on the motion. Mark Rabatin restated his motion do not go forward with Greenleaf as a park.

**Roll Call by Clerk:**

Lynn Forkell	Y
Mike Freeland	N
Robert Keller	N
Clara Meagher	Y
Mark Rabatin	Y
Malcolm Richards	Y
Ivan Soto	Y
Christina VandenBosche	N

**YES – 5; No - 3**

**The MOTION PASSED 5 YES and 3 NO.**

**Dog Park**

Kisha Wilson-Sogunro reported on the process of the dog park. She said the process has been slow, however the engineer site plan is done, and trees are removed. Site plan is showing an area

for large and small dogs. What is not decided is obstacles that will go inside for play. The Dog Park will be on as Old Business with an update to be provide at the next meeting.

**2040 Comprehensive Plan Update – Parks, Culture and Recreation Final Draft Review**

Overview: this is a 20 year-planning document that lays out goals and strategies that is ultimately is adopted by the City.

**Discussion:**

- Members are invited to a June 26 report-out community meeting.
- Over the summer the Update Committee will incorporate the input and put together a single draft of the plan; later in the year the Council will hold hearings on the draft, and it should be adopted next spring.
- How are priorities set? Staff will review and put it into tasks and prioritize.
- Upcoming after adoption will be a work session with the committee to give staff guidance.
- Wildlife corridors question means to either set aside for wildlife or park.
- Designating wildlife space no mow vs. what should be mowed and not being maintained. (Staff will review when writing the final)
- HEAL community included? Response it is in the separate section ad Ms. Via-Gossman will send that out to the Committee.
- Suggestion of planting fruit trees.
- Notice cross over between the boards and committees.
- Inventory of wildlife in the City, to help in determination of wildlife corridors.
- Committee possible projects are researching grants.


**Close of Business:**

Lawrence Smith asked for any other business. Christina VandenBosche asked about terms ending. It was explained that they would need to re-apply if they wish to stay on the board. There was no other business brought to the table.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 10 at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:**

Mike Freeland made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Bob Keller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting ended at 8:35 p.m.

  
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Lawrence Smith  
Chair

7/10/2019  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date