

**DRAFT**

**ZOOM MEETING**

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**November 17, 2021**

**Present:** Jeffrey Fracher, Anne Hemenway, Ned Michie, Bridget Moss, Jennifer Slack and Shawn Strubbe. Absent: Lashundra Bryson-Morsberger and Hosea Mitchell

**Staff:** Vic Garber, Chris Gensic, Sarah Blech, Riaan Anthony and Andrea Ross

**Public Comment**

No public comment

**Adoption of Minutes**

- Correction – under Naming of Parks – note there has been public input & went forth with names, and that there will be another opportunity for public input @ City Council meeting,
- Correction – Chris Gensic under naming of parks should be Livery not Liberty
- Correction – under Bylaws – add bullet that there will be a delay voting on amended bylaws due to waiting for review by City Attorney
- Anne Hemenway made a motion to approve minutes as amended of October 14, 2021, second by Shawn Strubbe, motion was unanimously approved.

**Introduction of new Deputy Director – Parks**

- Vic Garber announced that Riaan Anthony is the new Deputy Director – Parks; was Management Specialist II in the Recreation Division supervising dry land facility operations, programs and the skate park
- Riaan Anthony stated that he had been working for Charlottesville Parks & Recreation for 7 years and was excited for his new role & challenges. Goals for the Parks Division are meeting needs of the residents, that parks are the gateway to Charlottesville, they stimulate the economy, Charlottesville has great parks and to have a clean & safe park system

**Updates on Parks & Recreation facilities & programs**

- **Riaan Anthony stated that the Parks Division was in the winterizing stage** in parks; closing restrooms but that Pen, McIntire and Tonsler were year round bathroom facilities and port-a-johns are placed in the areas that restroom were closed for winter
- Reported that the Parks Division were short staffed due to vacant full-time positions, staff were getting things done but at a slower pace; vacancies include

Horticulture Supervisor (3) Horticulture staff, Urban Forester, 1-3 Maintenance workers; Gardeners

- Parks staff will be performing a maintenance inventory of parks, looking @ shelters rating them from excellent to needs improvement, performing an assessment of restrooms; will be using a park to park approach and have a plan to accomplish what is needed in stages
- Ned Michie stated that there was a sign @ Greenbrier about donors that was moldy and had nothing to do with the playground that is now in place
- Anne Hemenway stated that the playground @ Northeast Park needs assessment
  
- Vic Garber reported the following updates for the Recreation Division:
- Smith – still looking @ opening 1/3/22 – have met with Deputy City Manager and are still doing checks on facility, looking @ being short staffed, operational hours being looked at; condensed hours very possible,
- City of Charlottesville has a new executive order – all staff must be vaccinated and have lost a few staff. Employees who do not complete weekly testing will be put on unpaid leave. Has left an impact on our young staff 15-16 year olds
- The following positions are also vacant: Golf Superintendent, Aquatics Manager and Aquatics Maintenance Manager
- Ned Michie asked about the hiring of a new HR Director, Vic Garber replied no announcement @ this time
  
- Chris Gensic reported the following:
- Building of new single track nature trails @ Quarry Park,
- Washington Park ramp project
- Two connections with land behind Tonsler Park – open area for trails
- Burley school field project – mulch path into the area has been opened
- Ned Michie asked about the 250 underpass project, replied close to going to bid
- Kneeder Bridge – City Council had a first reading appropriation last night, adding extra \$150,000, bid probably in February, same for east McIntire Botanical Garden bridge, waiting for flood study, should be received Friday
- Park naming package – should be on Council agenda with an estimate of later part of December
- Greenbrier – has been looked @, Riaan want to contract out, out of lump sum funding
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- Tonsler Field House – have two conceptual designs, two for parking, meeting with Deputy City Manager about parking, loss of trees, getting cost estimates for parking lot & field house, least impact for citizens being looked at. After go out to community for feedback, slight change of community over last 10 years, timeline – spring to move forward with public input

- Towe Park softball field lighting, there is a group that is trying to promote lighting, city funds are budgeted for this project
- Skate park lighting – project is now about \$45,000 away from funding the needed lighting skate park is a very popular location
- Planning commission will meet Tuesday by zoom, presentation by budget office, discuss various projects, legal mandates & safety issues, draft, following presentation public comment,

### **Bylaws Update**

- Vic Garber reported that staff has been corresponding with City Attorney's office, there is not a final process in place for filling vacancies at this time, Advisory Board has two members that are eligible for renewal and there is one vacancy, hope to finalize process soon.

### **Future Meeting agenda Items & Dates (select meeting dates for 2022)**

- No December meeting
- January meeting – January 13 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday

### **Chairman's Matters**

**Happy Holidays**

### **Board Matters**

- Anne Hemenway asked about status of YMCA leasing @ Crow, Vic Garber replied that he has been talking to the YMCA and they have discussed future not immediate needs. Also noted that Crow Pool doesn't meet ADA guidelines
- Anne Hemenway thanked Linda Daly for her work with the Advisory Board

### **Directors Matters**

- Ned Michie wished board members Happy Holidays
- Director Search Process Update -decision should be made this week

### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

- Ned Michie dismissed the meeting @ 6:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daly

Secretary to the Advisory Board

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