

Brookville Board of Park Trustees
Regular Meeting
January 8, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Brookville Board of Park Trustees was called to order by President Cordes at 7:30 p.m. on January 8, 2019 in the City Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Trustees Haney and Vance; Council Liaison Kirklin; Clerk Wheeler, Manager Burkholder and Finance Director Keaton were present.

Motion by Haney, second by Vance to approve the Agenda as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Vance, second by Haney to approve the December 11, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Vance, second by Haney to appoint Bonnie Cordes as Park Board President for 2019. All yeas, motion carried.

Motion by Vance, second by Cordes to appoint Carolyn Haney as Park Board Vice-President for 2019. All yeas, motion carried.

JD Fowler, of the Brookville Soccer Association, informed the 2019 spring season will begin with practice starting in March, opening day April 13 and then the season ending June 2.

Mr. Fowler informed the Optimist Club Easter egg hunts are scheduled. He informed the Adult Egg Scramble will be Saturday, March 11, 2019 and the Children's Easter egg hunt will be Saturday, April 20, 2019.

Mr. Fowler asked if the Annual Community Park Cleanup date has been scheduled yet? He informed the Soccer Association will help do clean up at Westbrook Park.

Mr. Fowler asked if the water fountain at the concession stand at Westbrook Park could be repaired, especially now since the restrooms are gated? He asked if quotes could be obtained? He informed the Soccer Association could possibly see about donations to help cover the cost.

Adam Blevins, Brookville Chamber of Commerce President, thanked Park Board for all their efforts in 2018. He informed the 69th Annual Community Picnic for 2019 will be July 25, 26 and 27. He stated the biggest challenge the Chamber sees is the pedestrian bridge needing to be repaired or replaced.

President Cordes stated Park Board would like to support the Chamber in any way on the bridge.

Mr. Blevins stated the Chamber would like to reach out to the community for help with donations and work with City in any way possible.

Shelly Music, Park Caretaker, stated the Community Theatre has a show scheduled for the same weekend as the Community Picnic. She stated there might be concern for parking issues.

President Cordes stated she will mention it to her husband who is on the Theatre Board.

Anne Kirklin, Council Liaison, reported Park Board Members received a memo from Law Director Stephan that addressed the Christmas decorations in the Leiber Center. She informed it was decided that if Christmas in the Park is done again this year, anyone renting a shelter during the month of December will be advised there may be Christmas decorations up.

Member Haney stated a lot of people have expressed to her how much they enjoyed the Christmas decorations in the Leiber Center.

Motion by Vance, second by Haney to approve the dates of the 2019 Community Picnic on July 25, 26 and 27 and the 2019 Optimist Club events on March 11 and April 20. All yeas, motion carried.

Manager Burkholder had no report.

Finance Director Keaton presented the finance report. She informed park permits were down \$2,110 year to date. She provided a spread sheet to Members on the Christmas in the Park Event and the total amount spent for the event.

President Cordes asked what could cause the drop in shelter rental rates?

Finance Director Keaton advised she has seen it fluctuate from year to year over the years.

Trustee Haney informed when the Rotary was taking down Christmas lights at their open air shelter, it was noticed part of the ceiling was quite rotted and in need of some repair.

Manager Burkholder informed this is something he has raised with Park Board in the past about the need of maintenance for the various shelters and if we could get some support from the various service organizations to help with repairs. He stated we need to be able to maintain our current structures before building in any new shelters. He suggested if anyone would like to volunteer to help raise funds or with repairs, it would be helpful. He stated there is very little in the capital improvement budget this year City wide.

President Cordes stated it sounds as though Park Board needs to approach the various service groups that have buildings at the park for their help.

Manager Burkholder stated that would be very helpful. He informed in 2018, the City paid to paint the dugouts and paid for the repairs at the Community Theatre.

Trustee Haney stated she is unsure of how old the building is. She stated the Rotary does not have a lot of money either, so she isn't sure what they could do, but will check.

President Cordes asked if the Service Department could do the work?

Manager Burkholder stated it's possible, but can't be committed to at this time. He informed the Service Department has taken on a lot of extra work with mowing at the fire station and detention pond maintenance. He stated it is also amazing how much maintenance the park really needs.

President Cordes stated the Service Department should look at the buildings first to see how much work is really needed.

Manager Burkholder many of the service groups donated those buildings and if they would like to participate in the process of evaluating the buildings that would certainly be welcomed, it should be a cooperative effort. He stated the City will allocate resources to the extent available. He stated the 2019 Budget is a deficit budget by \$300,000 and ways of additional revenue for the City will need to be determined or cuts will have to be made. He stated this has been discussed at length at Council Meetings. He stated any foundation, group or organization that would like to contribute labor or revenue to these types of projects would be much appreciated. He reminded the City has put a lot of money into the parks over the last few years.

Trustee Vance stated years ago when former President George Bush visited Brookville, a tree was planted in his honor in Golden Gate Park. She asked if there used to be plaque for the tree and if the was tree still there?

Member Vance asked if the 2019 budget has been finalized? She asked if Park Board could have a copy? She asked why the City has a deficit budget?

Finance Director Keaton explained expenditures exceeding revenues.

Manager Burkholder informed operating costs continue to increase, unexpected expenses occur, dispatch services have increased, the cost of salt, loss of Inheritance Tax and debt service are a few examples. He informed the pedestrian bridge on Arlington Road is a prime example of an unexpected expense. The bridge was deemed unsafe by the Montgomery County Engineer's Office and because it was a public safety issue it had to be replaced, which cost approximately \$40,000.

Manager Burkholder informed the need for a revenue solution has been brought up to City Council. He stated the .25% income tax increase in 2015 did help, but then two large businesses left, the income tax credit reduction definitely helped with additional revenue, but was repealed in 2017. He stated to date, the City has lost approximately one million dollars due to the repeal of that legislation.

Member Vance asked about having a Parks and Rec Levy. She stated she thinks if that type of levy were to be spelled out that the money was earmarked for only the parks, the levy might actually pass.

Manager Burkholder stated he will defer the idea to City Council as they are looking at ideas for revenue. He informed City Council will have another Budget Work Session in February and the public is welcome to attend.

President Cordes asked if a plaque will still be done for former Park Board President, Dave Monnin?

Manager Burkholder informed Staff is working on it. He asked if there is any specific wording Park Board would like?

President Cordes informed Park Board can think about it. She asked if the plaques will be the same as the plaque ordered for the Grove area?

Clerk Wheeler informed the plaque for the Grove area is a plaque that is posted into the ground, the plaques being considered for Dave Monnin would be a trophy type plaque that could be hung on a wall in a home or office.

President Cordes stated in December each year, a bonus is usually given to the Park Caretakers of \$100 as a thank you for all they do.

Motion by Vance, second by Haney to give a \$100 Christmas bonus to the Park Caretaker. All yeas, motion carried.

Discussion on memo from Law Director Stephan and having Christmas Lights and decorations in the Leiber Center.

Members agreed to hold a 2019 Christmas in the Park Event.

Trustee Vance suggested if doing the event again, not to let it be the only thing planned for the park for the year. She suggested Park Board try to plan other events also for the park.

President Cordes stated Park Board will need to pick a date.

Discussion on ideas and a date to schedule the Christmas in the Park Event for 2019.

Park Board Members agreed to schedule the 2019 Christmas in the Park Event for Friday, December 13, 2019.

President Cordes informed she is excited to announce the Strausburg Foundation has decided to pay for four park benches in the new Grove area in addition to two picnic tables.

President Cordes asked if a date can be scheduled for the Annual Community Park Cleanup?

Finance Director Keaton suggested the first week of April to get away from the colder weather in March.

Manager Burkholder informed the Service Department usually tries to cleanup some of the larger items ahead of the cleanup in the event we get totally rained out. He reminded last year it was moved to April to try to avoid some of the colder weather that we have had in the past during the month of March.

Trustee Vance suggested having the cleanup after school spring break.

Park Board Members agreed to schedule the Annual Community Park Cleanup for Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

President Cordes reminded there is an opening on Park Board and there will be an ad in the newspaper and it is posted on the City's website.

Motion by Haney, second by Vance to adjourn. All yeas, motion carried.



Meghan Wheeler, Clerk



Bonnie Cordes, President

