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City of Salisbury, Maryland
Parks & Recreation Committee
February 16, 2021

Minutes

<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Doug Draper, Parks Dept.	Chris Roberts, Committee Member
Mike Perry, Committee Member	Dr. Brante' Dashield, Committee Member
David Plotts, Chairperson	
David Herrick, Secretary	April Jackson, City Council Liaison
Joe Anderson, Vice Chairperson	
Mike Pioruski, Committee Member	
Alyssa Hastings, City Sustainability Coordinator	
Dom Sessa, Committee Member	

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8 **Call to Order:** David Plotts called the meeting to order at 6.02pm on ZOOM

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10 **Minutes:** The minutes were not available from the past meeting to be approved. They will be voted
11 on at the next meeting.

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13 **Park Review:** Mr. Draper updated the committee on the City Park where, on advice of the Park
14 Stream Buffer Group and Alyssa Hastings, beds were constructed back from the river and planted
15 with switch grass, irises, water berry, mallow and 25 trees which are the part of the Tree-Mendous
16 Maryland program. Some large trees on South Park Drive were taken down with Mr. Draper noting
17 that the ground is saturated from recent rains. He also mentioned that volunteers from Salisbury U.
18 will assist in mulching areas of the park and Ben's Red Swing. Mr. Draper along with Ms. Hastings
19 and Anne Gilbert, Director of Tree-Mendous Maryland, is proud to announce that the city of
20 Salisbury has been designated a member of Tree City U.S.A. for the second consecutive year;
21 Ms. Hastings commented on how well of a job that Mike Perry and the American Bicycling
22 Association is doing with Naylor Mill Park but she would like to see mileage posts and directions to
23 the exits. Mr. Perry advises people to just walk uphill to get out. It was mentioned that a Green Team
24 cleanup is scheduled for March 20, 2021 from 9:00AM to 11:00AM in various locations.

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26 **Other Business:** Mr. Plotts announced the Capital Improvement Plan proposals that would affect the
27 parks such as installing new lighting and updating the bathrooms at the City Park Bandstand, a tennis
28 complex at the "Boy Scout Field" on N. Park Dr., improvements to Waterside park and plans for a
29 new North Prong Park. Mr Pioruski wants to make sure that our committee has input on the new
30 park but Ms. Hastings added that this is a preliminary and long range plan . With a new Director of
31 Field Operations, Jana Potvin, and a possible realignment of certain city departments, the committee
32 feels this will be a good time to have a discussion concerning what role the Parks and Recreation
33 Committee has and to improve communication with other departments. Ms. Hastings recommended
34 that the committee first assess what Ms. Potvin's vision for the park system actually is before getting
35 too excited . Mr. Plotts also said that he was in discussion with Amanda Pollock, Director of
36 Infrastructure and Development, concerning Chris Roberts' proposal for a disc golf course to be
37 installed in the City Park where Mr. Roberts has already marked the layout and Ms. Pollock has
38 agreed to take up the idea with relevant decisionmakers. Let's hope the fulfillment of Mr. Roberts'
39 initiative stays in his and the committee's hands and not usurped by a well meaning official. Mr.
40 Pioruski thought that during the COVID pandemic people would be more willing to volunteer to help
41 in the parks in some manner just to be safely outside. He said that after taking with the groups tasked
42 with supporting Waterside Park he feels they desperately need volunteers to renovate and maintain
43 the community garden. He thought that the Salisbury U. community might be of assistance or even
44 an Adopt-A-Park designation. Having experience with community gardens, Mr. Pioruski
45 recommends replacing the cinder block borders at Waterside with something more aesthetically

46 pleasing and generating a park policy that sets standards and limitations. Mr. Perry mentioned the
47 possibility of a pollinator garden to replace the weeded sections. Alyssa Hastings said that she and
48 David Plotts are members of the Environmental Policy Task Force which, among other concerns, is
49 evaluating the buffer zone along the Wicomico River in the City Park and lighting in the park which
50 shouldn't be too bright or numerous as to conflict with the Dark Sky initiative. The group is also
51 considering placing nesting boxes for birds around Salisbury parks in an effort to become the first
52 Bird City on the Eastern Shore. As an addition, Mike Pioruski would like to see bat boxes placed in
53 the parks and possibly having Boy Scouts build them. Dom Sessa, our newest committee member,
54 said she might have know someone who would build both boxes. Ms. Sessa also ventured she might
55 be of assistance with the Parks and Recreation Committee web page that Mr. Plotts is currently
56 administering. Mike Perry requested more information on the Salisbury Rails to Trails design
57 specifically asking if it was primarily for recreation or transportation. No definitive answer was
58 forthcoming from the members of the committee.
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61 The postponed 2021 election of committee officers were completed. David Plotts was nominated
62 for Chairperson by Mike Perry, Mr. Plotts consented and was elected by unanimous vote. Joe
63 Anderson was nominated for Vice Chairperson by Mike Pioruski, Mr. Anderson consented and was
64 elected by unanimous vote. David Herrick was nominated for Secretary by Mike Perry, Mr. Herrick
65 consented and was elected by unanimous vote. A motion was made by Mr. Plotts to change the
66 committee meeting day from the third Tuesday to the second Thursday of each month which was
67 seconded by Mr. Herrick and was duly carried. Also, Mr. Plotts wishes to resume meetings at the
68 park locations possibly as soon as April.
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70 **Adjournment:** Since there was no more immediate business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was
71 made by Mike Perry and seconded by Joe Anderson. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.
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74 David Herrick
75 Secretary
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