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**City of Salisbury, Maryland**  
**Parks & Recreation Committee**  
**July 14, 2022**

**Minutes**

<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
David Plotts, Chairperson	<u>Rachel Manning, Community Relations Mgr.</u>
Mike Piorunski, Vice Chairperson	
David Herrick, Secretary	<b>Not Present</b>
April Jackson, City Council Liaison	Dominique Sessa, Committee Member
Mary Grace Kiley, Committee Member	
Mike Perry, Committee Member	
Alyssa Hastings, Sustainability Specialist	
Lou DeGeorge, Parks Crew Leader	
Sam Ireland, Deputy Dir. Field Operations	

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8 **Call to Order:** David Plotts called the meeting to order at 6:05PM at Doverdale Park, Decatur Ave.,  
9 Salisbury, MD 21804.

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11 **Minutes:** David Herrick distributed copies of the minutes from the May 9, 2022 meeting. A  
12 motion was made by Mike Piorunski to amend line 34 of said minutes to state a generic “tennis  
13 center” to replace a specific named center. The motion to approve minutes as amended was seconded  
14 by Mary Grace Kiley and carried to approve.

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16 **Park Review:** There were several children at Doverdale Park involved in different activities, the  
17 basketball court was in use and the soccer pitch appeared to have been utilized in the recent past. Mr.  
18 Piorunski said that he had observed lacrosse players on the field also. Lisa Manning was glad for that  
19 information since she had just been asked about that particular sport at the park. Mr. Piorunski  
20 wished to know the actual park boundaries near the basketball courts and David Plotts said he would  
21 investigate. In general, Doverdale Park grounds were well maintained but playground equipment and  
22 basketball courts needed improvement and the concession stand was underutilized. Weed growth  
23 around the tree bases needed to be trimmed. Lou DeGeorge explained that a new parks dept.  
24 supervisor will be officially named soon and will update the committee on overall park activities at  
25 the soonest available opportunity. Alyssa Hastings is using a grant from Chesapeake Bay Trust to  
26 install vegetative wetland buffers and informative signage along the Wicomico River inside City  
27 Park. Native flora will be planted in an effort to stabilize the riverbanks and city park employees will  
28 be trained to recognize invasive species through a Level 2 certification process. April Jackson asked  
29 Ms. Hastings for the status of the scheduled tree plantings at Lake Street Park and was informed that  
30 the project was completed last year, and she thought that a ribbon cutting ceremony might be in  
31 order. Finally, several city park employees are attending classes to be Certified Playground Safety  
32 Inspectors.

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34 **Other Business:** Ms. Jackson addressed the committee’s concerns about communication and  
35 cooperation with the Mayor’s Office and the City Council. Mr. Plotts said a main issue is that no  
36 citywide park masterplan exists and because of that special or singular projects are often placed  
37 ahead of planned improvements by our committee resulting in haphazard development. Mr.  
38 Piorunski brought up the issue of standard park hours and confusion brought on by varying lighting  
39 schedules and random parking policies around the city parks. Ms. Manning explained that the county  
40 has park police, but the Salisbury city police are delegated to enforce the park regulations which are  
41 not a high priority. The committee feels that if the neighborhoods around each park get involved in  
42 making their park look presentable and get children interested then vandalism and other issues might  
43 be curtailed because of local investment. If there were volunteers from the area who could monitor

44 park activity that would also be very helpful. Ms. Manning said that she has promoted events at  
45 various parks with door hangars and a monthly newsletter and revealed that there is a history of  
46 partnership between the county and the city for events in the city parks. She indicated that the Park  
47 Hop, Riverfest and Summerfest which were all coordinated with the county and she will try to  
48 generate more partnered projects. Ms.Kiley said that disc golf in the city park is very popular and  
49 Ms. Manning said we may do a ribbon cutting after signage is approved and installed. She also said  
50 donations have been deemed legal after questions were raised but Ms. Kiley noticed that donated  
51 plantings were not being maintained. She also mentioned that there is grant funding for Project Open  
52 Space for at risk parks which includes almost every city park. In closing, a citywide master plan is  
53 needed before requests for funding major park projects can happen.

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57 **Adjournment:** Since there was no more immediate business for the committee to discuss, a motion  
58 to adjourn was made by David Herrick, seconded by Mike Piorunski and committee voted to adjourn  
59 at 7:05PM.

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62 David Herrick  
63 Secretary

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