

City of Salisbury, Maryland
Parks & Recreation Committee
December 8, 2022

Minutes

<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Mike Piorunski, Vice Chairperson	
Mary Grace Kiley, Committee Member	
David Herrick, Secretary	
Mike Perry, Committee Member	Dominique Sessa, Committee Member
April Jackson, City Council Liaison	
Lou DeGeorge, Parks Supervisor	
David Plotts, Chairperson	
Harry Wanner, Parks Manager	

Call to Order: David Plotts called the meeting to order at 6:05PM at Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore, 1324 Belmont Ave, Suite 401, Salisbury, MD 21801.

Minutes: David Herrick stated minutes from November 10, 2022 are unavailable for consideration..

Parks Review: Lou DeGeorge said that tree trimming is ongoing on N. Park Drive and Sheffield Ave. but that staffing at the parks department were below nominal levels due to injuries, transfers and one position where hiring has been frozen by saboteurs in city government for unknown reasons. The Sustainability Specialist position is open for applicants. Mary Grace Kiley bemoaned the understaff issue and worried that the extra work required by new city streetscapes is impacting maintenance in city parks and observed that contractors hired by the city using grant money from the Storm Waters Utility Fund were not visible in downtown areas targeted by said fund. Ms. Kiley was also concerned about distribution of grant money to Waterside Park and what specific improvements were proposed. The person responsible for supervising this park should be brought before the committee for questioning, she believed. Ms. Kiley also disputed the decision to allocate funds for a bocce ball court instead of addressing leaf removal in the parks. Mike Piorunski believed that the city budget up for discussion in January 2023 will allow for 8 employees to be assigned to park maintenance. April Jackson said she will push for that outcome but cautioned that the city is also short staffed.

Other Business: Mike Piorunski continued the discussion of a possible collaboration between the city and artists resulting in entertainment and exhibitions in city parks with Lorecrop and Monument parks as possible candidates for initial locations. Mr. DeGeorge and Mr. Wanner seemed receptive to the concept and look forward to additional details. Mr. Piorunski also wished that city parks would be more environmentally healthy with an emphasis on air and water quality. Committee elections were held and as the current Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary were not averse to continue in their capacities and as no others were so foolish enough to nominate themselves for said titles and the duties included, the continued appointments for all three candidates were unanimously approved by the committee and wishes were expressed for their success.

Adjournment: Since there was no more immediate business for the committee to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by David Herrick, seconded by Mike Perry and committee voted to adjourn at 7:35PM.

David Herrick
Secretary