



**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2024
Westover Skate Park**

A meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) was held on Monday, November 18, 2024, at Westover Skate Park. Kevin Gibson called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: MuAwia DaMes, Rachel Smallwood, Chance Ebersold, Deanna Reed, and Kevin Gibson. Present from Parks and Recreation were Brian Mancini, Vic Garber, Scott Erickson, Matt Muterspaugh, Connie Lawson, Heidi Randhahn, and Zac Harris. Also attending were several members of the public.

1. Welcome – Kevin Gibson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of the September 2024 Minutes- Rachel Smallwood made a motion to approve the September minutes; Deanna Reed seconded the motion. The September minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. Director's Report & Project Updates- Brian Mancini
 - a. Westover Skate Park – Scott Erickson-Construction started October 2024. Currently ahead of schedule in the concrete construction phase of features. This will be followed by surface flatwork. Once all concrete work is done, then work will begin on grading and landscaping. Hoping to have the Skate Park open by early 2025.
 - b. Ralph Sampson Spray Grounds –Vic Garber- Cutting in new road for Spray Grounds, curb and gutters have been placed for road and parking. Earthwork for the retention pond has been completed. Parks and Recreation is working with Public Works to use fill dirt from the retention pond construction site for a Public Works Project. After permits pass, construction will begin on the water filtration systems and the restrooms. Hoping to have the Spray Grounds open by June of 2025.
 - c. Kids Castle –Final pricing and ordering of playground equipment in progress. Working with Community Development on environmental requirements for Blacks Run. Educational signage is also being considered for the Blacks Run area. The old playground will be removed after Christmas. Looking into having a closing ceremony. Construction of the new playground will start in Spring of 2025.
 - d. Smithland Soccer Fields-Smithland Soccer Fields have received the Parks and Recreation Fields of the Year Award!

4. Action Items – Director Mancini encouraged the Commission members to attend the Holiday Parade on December 7, 2024. Looking at possibly having a live stream of the parade.
5. PRAC Member Questions and Comments–
 - a. Will there be lighting and shelter areas at the new Skate Park? Response- those were in the original plans, but all the money was used for concrete features in the new plan. May be considered for Phase 2 of construction, if money is available.
 - b. Will there be signage at the new Skate Park? Response- Yes, they are working on the signage now.
 - c. Will there be fencing around the new Skate Park? Response- No.
6. General Public Comments- Several members of the public attended the meeting. One asked if signage would be posted about the opening date of the Skate Park. Response-Yes once the date is known.
7. Next PRAC Meeting – The next meeting will be held at Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center on Monday January 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
8. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Connie Lawson
Parks and Recreation
Administrative Specialist