



**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2025
Ralph Sampson Spray Grounds**

A meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) was held on Monday, May 19, 2025, at the Ralph Sampson Spray Grounds. Kevin Gibson called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: MuAwia DaMes, Deanna Reed, Matt Snyder, Aaron Hewitt and Kevin Gibson. Present from Parks and Recreation were Brian Mancini, Vic Garber, Scott Erickson, AJ Morris, Matt Muterspaugh, Erik Dart, and Connie Lawson.

1. Welcome – Kevin Gibson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Gibson introduced and welcomed the two new Commission Members: Matt Snyder and Aaron Hewitt.
2. Approval of the November 2024, January 2025, and March 2025 Minutes- Deanna Reed motioned to approve the minutes and MuAwia DaMes seconded the motion. The November 2024, January 2025, and March 2025 Minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Annual Review of the Bylaws- Kevin Gibson briefly went over the Bylaws, it was decided that everyone should review them and bring any questions to the next meeting.
4. Director's Report & Project Updates- Brian Mancini
 - a. Spray Grounds- Sidewalks and main Spray Grounds cement pour will be done by next week. The color scheme for the Spray Grounds was shared. Playground and irrigation work has started, and sod will go down soon. There is room to expand on the Spray Grounds in the future. A new traffic plan with signage will be installed. Spray Grounds will be open from 11am-7pm, hours can be adjusted as needed. Lifeguards will be on duty to monitor the Spray Grounds. Work should be complete by mid-June. A grand opening date will be set soon and PRAC members are invited to attend.
 - b. Ralph Sampson Park Trails and Parking-Existing trails are being paved and widened. 20 parking spaces are being added by the Futsol Courts. Work is also being done to update the Basketball Courts. Hoping to have all work done by early fall.
 - c. Kids Castle- Farewell Event went well. Contractor work will begin soon with the current Kids Castle coming down soon. The power line has been buried. The new Kids Castle playground should be up by late October-early November.
 - d. Thomas Harrison Athletic Field- Work should be done by the beginning of Summer-right after school lets out next year.

- e. Westover- New restroom approved for next year. Pool Geotech work for the new dome foundation has been completed. Work will begin on plans for footers and the new Olympic Pool dome.
 - f. Heritage Oaks Golf Course- Course is on track to break last year's record for profits. Plans are in the works to hold the VHSL District Cross Country Championship and the Middle School Cross Country Championship at Heritage Oaks. Looking forward to holding a signature event at HOGC. Still looking into having food at the golf course.
 - g. Morrison Park-Restrooms should be installed in August. Work is being done to connect the trail system from the pickleball courts to the restrooms. Basketball courts will be refinished and updated.
 - h. Kiwanis Park-Working to get CDBG funding for a new playground and to update the park.
 - i. Eastover Tennis Courts- Courts will be refinished this summer and new fencing will be installed.
 - j. Smithland Side B- Fencing will be installed to prevent further vandalism of fields.
 - k. Ramblewood Athletic Complex- Repairs are being done to the irrigation system and work is being done to improve the fields. Working with Public Works to possibly install fencing around fields. There has been an increase in field usage by travel groups.
5. Action Items – Director Mancini requested the PRAC's involvement in the opening of the Spray Grounds.
6. PRAC Member Questions and Comments–
- a. How is the Skate Park doing? The Skate Park is seeing a lot of general usage and schools are using the park for classes. Looking into having designers come back for a demonstration and to start work on plans for Phase Two.
 - b. Will work be done to upgrade the parking lot at the Rec Center? Yes, there are plans to extend the smaller parking lot, having the parking pattern run one way with a new exit.
7. General Public Comments- There were no general public comments.
8. Next PRAC Meeting – The next meeting will be held at Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center on Monday July 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. (Meeting may be changed to Kids Castle)
9. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Connie Lawson
Parks and Recreation
Administrative Specialist