



City of Harrisonburg

City Hall
409 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Minutes - Final Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Monday, March 17, 2025

7:00 PM

Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center

1. Meeting Called to Order

A meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) was held on Monday, March 17, 2025, at Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center. Kevin Gibson called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: MuAwia DaMes, Leonard Van Wyk, Deanna Reed and Kevin Gibson. Present from Parks and Recreation were Brian Mancini, Vic Garber, Donna Scott, Scott Erickson, AJ Morris, Matt Muterspaugh, and Erik Dart.

1. Welcome - Kevin Gibson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Mr. Gibson welcomed the attending EMU students from the community development course that Mayor Reed co-teaches.

2. Approval of the November 2024 and January 2025 Meeting Minutes

2. Approval of the November 2024 and January 2025 Minutes- The November 2024 and January 2025 minutes could not be voted on because there was not a quorum. These minutes will be voted on at the next PRAC meeting scheduled for May 19, 2025.

This was postponed.

November 2024 Meeting Minutes

Click here to enter the action/summary (insert the summary from the memo here

January 2025 Meeting Minutes

Click here to enter the action/summary (insert the summary from the memo here

3. Director's Report and Project Updates

3. Director's Report & Project Updates- Brian Mancini
 - a. FY-26 Budget Update - We had to submit a flat budget this year. Budget submission increased due to inflation of costs and goods, vehicle replacement and the new Spray Grounds. We hope to be able to repave the Dog Park.
 - b. Capital Improvement Program - Has not been finalized. Includes \$2M in funding for complete replacement of the Simms HVAC system.
 - c. Parks and Recreation Master Plan - Will obtain the community's input

- regarding the entire park system.
- d. Restroom Facility Replacement - Will be replacing 13 restrooms in all parks. Currently, 3 restrooms have been replaced.
 - e. Simms/Ralph Sampson - Resurfacing of tennis courts and pickleball courts. Eastern tennis courts hit the hardest and will be our first priority.
 - f. Westover Skatepark - Opens Friday March 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Company was the best we ever worked with. Project came in on budget. Skating advocates love the park. There is room to expand later.
 - g. Kids Castle: Director Mancini shared drawings of Kids Castle. We will be adding some new branding colors. The overhead powerline will be buried and out of the way. The love of this project went viral on social media.
 - h. Westover Pool - The new Olympic dome was previously approved. Facility quotes for soil samples are underway to start the process of replacing the dome. We are working on the logo for the Swim for Sadie Program. The new stone wall will have all the information regarding Sadie and the programs being offered.
 - i. Spray Grounds: Director Mancini provided a printed high-level view drawing of the Spray Grounds. Construction is underway with 4 pavilions. There are separate sections for infants, toddlers and teens. There will be beautiful landscaping and beds, a new playground, and walking trails. The traffic pattern has been redone, and additional parking and lighting have been added. We will ask for input from the Northeast neighborhood community of what amenities they would like to have in 2 areas of the park that are currently open.
 - j. Lucy F. Simms - Parks and Recreation received a grant of \$180K to do window replacement to maintain the historical integrity of the building. Additionally, new landscaping has been installed. We will be changing Lucy Simms name on the sign. An overview was provided of the improvements made to the inside of the building, which includes replacing the audio-visual technology (projector, acoustic panels, and speakers) and redoing the floors in the auditorium. The auditorium is now regularly used for city celebrations and school banquets. In the gymnasium, wall matting has been replaced with branding colors. In the entrance, new floors and reception desk have been installed. We maintained the historical floors as much as we could and replaced areas that were not part of the original historical building with carpet or vinyl flooring.
 - k. Community - We have converted tennis courts into futsal courts. This has increased the usage of these courts from minimal usage to hundreds of people using these courts.

4. Action Items

- 4. Action Items - Director Mancini requested the PRAC's involvement in the openings of the Spray Grounds and Skatepark.

5. PRAC Member Questions and Comments

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 - a. Will there be any type of grand opening for the new Skatepark?
Response: Yes, when the weather warms up, we will have a grand opening.
 - b. When will we be taking down Kids Castle? Response: Will be coming up with a date for the current Kids Castle to close.
 - c. What type of flooring will be used for the new Kids Castle? Response: Rubber floor material will be same as Dream Come True; however, some areas will be wood fiber. As funds come available, we will continue to replace with rubber surface.
 - d. What is the size of Kids Castle? Response: The park will be bigger and grander than the current park.
 - e. When will Kids Castle be completed? Response: Estimated completion is mid to late fall 2025.
 - f. Where are the zip lines at Kids Castle? Response: There will be 2 ziplines off to the side.
 - g. Is there enough parking at Kids Castle? Response: Not currently. Looking at plan to expand parking. It's going to take studies to move forward.

6. General Public Comments

6. General Public Comments- Will transportation be provided for the Swim for Sadie Program at Westover? Response: This has been talked about but will not be determined until registration happens.

7. Next PRAC Meeting-Monday May 19, 2025 at 7:00pm at Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center

7. Next PRAC Meeting - The next meeting will be held at Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center on Monday May 19, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn

8. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Notice to Public

Residents/Media will be able to attend the meeting.