



**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2024
A Dream Come True Playground**

A meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) was held on Monday, May 20, 2024 at A Dream Come True Playground. Kevin Gibson called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: Jim Honeycutt, Deanna Reed, Leonard Van Wyk, MuAwia DaMes, Rachel Smallwood, Chance Ebersold, and Kevin Gibson. Present from Parks and Recreation were Brian Mancini, Vic Garber, Scott Erickson, Matt Muterspaugh, AJ Morris, and Connie Lawson.

1. Welcome – Kevin Gibson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of the March 2024 Minutes- Len Van Wyk motioned to approve the March minutes. Deanna Reed seconded the motion. The March minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
3. Director's Report & Project Updates- Brian Mancini
 - a. Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center – Project to replace windows and doors at the facility is being funded thanks to an African American Civil Rights grant of \$180,000. Working to have the doors replaced with duplicates of the original doors.
 - b. Skatepark Project – Final design has been approved by all groups involved. Work will begin on the all-concrete structure in the fall, with plans to be complete by next spring.
 - c. Ralph Sampson Spray Grounds – Project is moving along as planned, with Phase 1 including extra parking. The Spray Grounds will be much larger than the one at Westover Pool and will include three distinct zones for different groups: Toddler Zone, Family Zone, and Teen Zone. Pavilions will be located around the Spray Grounds area. A 3-D Rendering will be available by May 30, 2024. Hoping to have Phase 1 completed by next summer.
 - d. Thomas Harrison – Lights and restroom installation are complete. Fencing will be completed by the end of June. The field will be completed next summer.
 - e. Kids Castle – Project is moving forward. The new structure will look similar but will be larger than the current Kids Castle. Director Mancini will bring the project rendering to the July meeting.

- f. Director Mancini thanked the Mayor for the ARPA funding which has made all these projects possible.
 - g. Soccer numbers are great.
 - h. The May Dance Recital was a success.
 - i. Westover Pool will open for the summer on Saturday, May 25, 2024, with 78% of pool classes already filled.
 - j. Summer Camps are full, with wait lists for all sections.
4. Action Items – None.
5. PRAC Member Questions and Comments–
- a. A member commented that Heritage Oaks Golf Course is doing great but would benefit from a restaurant. Response: We currently do not have enough staff to open a restaurant.
 - b. A member asked if using a food truck was an option? Response: That is something we are looking into.
 - c. A member was impressed by how quickly park personnel had cleaned up after the flooding.
 - d. A member asked if the baseball fields at Simms were being used? Response: Yes, but only a little bit.
6. General Public Comments- None.
7. Next PRAC Meeting – The next meeting will be held at Riven Rock Park on Monday July 15, 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