



**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2025
Riven Rock Park**

A meeting of the Harrisonburg Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) was held on Monday, September 15, 2025, at Riven Rock Park. Kevin Gibson called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: MuAwia DaMes, Leonard Van Wyk, Rachel Smallwood, Aaron Hewitt, and Kevin Gibson. Present from Parks and Recreation were Brian Mancini, Scott Erickson, Matt Muterspaugh, Erik Dart, and Connie Lawson.

1. Welcome – Kevin Gibson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Gibson welcomed the attending JMU Student, Adam Webb.
2. Approval of the May 2025 Minutes- Rachel Smallwood motioned to approve the Minutes and Aaron Hewitt seconded the motion. The May 2025 Minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Annual Review of the Bylaws-Members were asked to review the bylaws and discuss at the November meeting.
4. Director's Report & Project Updates- Brian Mancini
 - a. Outdoors AED's-We have begun to install outdoor AED's at some of our parks. We have a goal to have outdoor AED's at as many of our parks as possible. The first two have been installed at the new Spraygrounds at Ralph Sampson Park and at A Dream Come True Playground. We now have 20 AED's in total, and these are our first two outdoors.
 - b. Morrison Park-The new restroom building was installed at Morrison Park and is now operational. This was our third restroom installation on our goal of adding/replacing all restrooms in our park system. The next restroom replacement is underway and will be installed at Westover Park in 2026. We have received great reviews on the appearance at Morrison Park with the new landscaping, paint coordinated tie-ins, and restroom.
 - c. Spray Grounds at Ralph Sampson Park-We celebrated the successful opening of the Spraygrounds this past summer. The Spraygrounds have closed for the season on Labor Day, and will re-open Memorial Day weekend in 2026. We have a few more items that need addressed by the contractor, and then we'll begin the process to winterize everything.
 - d. Kids Castle Replacement at Purcell Park-Construction on the new Kids Castle has begun. The contractor is working on compaction of the area that will house the castle in the future. There was a temporary halt in the project as the City and contractor worked through some issues with the soil in the

park, but the problem has been solved, and the project will commence again soon.

- e. Smithland Athletic Complex-We have installed fencing on Pad 4 of the soccer fields. These are the fields that are across the railroad tracks that house many adult league games. The fencing looks good and is there to prevent vandalism. The fencing also allows staff to store supplies for athletics in a more secure area. We are also formulating plans to improve the current parking area the best that we can. It will be a challenge, but we think we can make it better.
- f. Thomas Harrison Athletic Field Complex Progressing on Schedule and On Budget-The Thomas Harrison Middle School Athletic Field project is progressing on schedule. The lighting, restrooms, and fencing have all been completed. The project will go out to bid in October in order to start the renovation of the old soccer field inside of the track.
- g. Open Full Time Positions-We currently have one open, full-time position, in the Parks and Recreation Department. It is the Youth Services Coordinator position. We have advertised it in multiple places online and hope to start screening applicants soon.
- h. Westover Pool-We are currently going through a deck design process for the Olympic Dome. We need more space in order for the dome to function correctly in terms of space, and functionality. These plans will then need to be reviewed by the City and put out to bid.
- i. Swim for Sadie Memorial Fund-The Swim for Sadie program is now through the memorial phase and a description of the program has been created and ordered for installation at Westover Pool. Actual work on the program, the program's start date, and advertising in the school system will start soon. The program will be advertised in full, and the first set of registrations will happen in early 2026.
- j. Ralph Sampson Park-The walking trails are starting to be paved in the park. The first section of paving has begun from Kelley Street to the top of the pavilion area near the futsal courts. Work was halted temporarily, in order to not make a mess of the park while the African American Festival is going on. We will also be dressing up the edges of the trail with dirt and mulch, along with installing trees along the walkway. It will look great when finished. In addition, decorative fencing will also be installed soon around parts of the Spraygrounds and Playground area.
- k. Eastover Tennis Courts Renovation-We have finished a resurfacing of the tennis courts, added new fencing around the courts, and will be adding new nets, and windscreen with branding soon. This is the first maintenance on the Eastover Courts in about 8 years.
- l. Westover Park-We have replaced all the speed bumps at Westover Park and are currently working with community development to add up to 30 additional parking spaces to increase capacity for the pool, disc golf course, and skatepark. We have also installed new signs at each hole and are getting ready to install the long baskets on the course as well. This will complete a phase of renovations that totaled roughly \$20,000 on the disc golf course.

5. Action Items – Director Mancini welcomed everyone to Riven Rock Park and wanted Commission members to think about what was needed or could be done to improve the park. Parks and Recreation is looking into working with partners in the future to make it into a regional park. A new bathroom facility is in the current Capital Improvement Plan. Director Mancini asked the Commissioners to talk to the Master Plan consultants about any projects they would like to promote for the new City Master Plan.
6. PRAC Member Questions and Comments–
 - a. How did the Spraygrounds do this summer? Response: Awesome, had about 150 people there at all times. Steady flow. Looking into eventually holding a winter wonderland during the holiday season.
 - b. Do the Spraygrounds need to be disassembled during the winter? Response: We are looking into the best way to winterize the site.
 - c. Will Cross Country Regionals be held at Heritage Oaks Golf Course this year? Response: Hoping to hold them next year.
 - d. Have there been any reported injuries at the new Skate Park? Response: No.
7. General Public Comments- There were no public comments.
8. Next PRAC Meeting – Monday November 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. The location is TBD.
9. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Connie Lawson
Parks and Recreation
Administrative Specialist