



City of Harrisonburg

City Hall
409 South Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Meeting Minutes - Final Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Monday, January 27, 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, January 27, 2025, at Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center. Kevin Gibson called the meeting to order with the following commission members present: MuAwia DaMes, Rachel Smallwood, Leonard Van Wyk and Kevin Gibson. Present from Parks and Recreation were Brian Mancini, Scott Erickson, AJ Morris, Matt Muterspaugh, and Erik Dart.

1. Welcome - Kevin Gibson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the November Meeting Minutes

2. Approval of the November 2024 Minutes- The November 2024 minutes could not be voted on because there was not a quorum. The November 2024 minutes will be voted on at the next PRAC meeting scheduled for March 17, 2025.

This was postponed.

November 18, 2024 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. The FY-26 budget will be posted soon; however, we will send an overview of the budget we submitted. Budget submission increased due to vehicle replacement and the new Spray Grounds; however, we still must cover increases to costs and goods. Unfortunately for programs, this means we have waiting lists and cannot expand the programs. We hope to be able to repave the Dog Park.
 - b. Westover Pool - The new Olympic dome was previously approved. We now have funds to proceed with construction, which includes the installation of the dome. This will allow us to expand services at Westover Pool to include swim lessons and swim teams.
 - c. Morrison Park Restrooms - Restrooms came down today. We will have

- temporary porta-johns there, but it will be some time until the new restrooms are installed.
- d. Westover Skate Park - Skate Park needs to be sealed, graded, and stabilized with sod. We are waiting for the weather to cooperate.
 - e. Kids Castle - Colors have been picked for the playground, and equipment has been ordered which takes approximately 6 months for delivery. The overhead powerline might be relocated.
 - f. Thomas Harrison Middle School Field Project - The only thing remaining to do is the field itself. We will send out the RFQ in the next two weeks.
 - g. Cecil F. Gilkerson Community Activity Center - Receiving a feasibility study for adding solar to the roof.
 - h. First Lady Younkin will be visiting Lucy F. Simms Continuing Education Center on Thursday, January 30th to give a presentation on opioid abuse to the Boys and Girls Club and other community non-profit partners.
 - i. Build Our Park - Is in the next stages of moving forward with City Council's support.
 - j. Spray Grounds: Director Mancini and the PRAC members toured the site of the Spray Grounds.

4. Action Items

- 4. Action Items - No action items.

5. PRAC Member Questions and Comments

- 5. PRAC Member Questions and Comments-
 - a. What is the status of season passes for JMU students at Heritage Oaks Golf Course, and specifically the cost of those passes? Response: The General Manger is evaluating the usage by students; however, he is not sure where we are with costs. We will provide a follow up.
 - b. For youth sports in the area, how do we get kids at the high school level to participate? How do we get kids enrolled in Parks and Recreation programs, and how are we reaching our diverse community, especially kids that traditionally don't participate in those sports? Response: Our numbers are really good right now. Where we lose the kids is at the middle school level. Until the High School and Middle School Athletic Directors prioritize athletics and get involved when they are in our Rec programs, numbers are going to drop off. We've reached out to them, invited them, but there doesn't seem to be much interest. County schools have open gyms every weekend for kids and are involved in Youth Athletics. We just don't see that happening here in the City.
 - c. Where are we with the Pickleball lights at Morrison? People have been using the EMU courts that are nice; however, they are still needing funds to replace their lights. Has the City considered partnering with them to help cover the costs since community members are using those courts? Response: We were in talks with EMU, but it fell apart.
 - d. Would it be possible to install sprayers/misters along the walking trails of

the new Spray Grounds since we are already installing plumbing and water? Response: We will take this into consideration.

6. General Public Comments

6. General Public Comments- No public comment.

7. Next PRAC Meeting-Monday March 17, 2025 at 7pm 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 March 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn

8. Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Notice to Public

Residents/Media will be able to attend the meeting.