

## CHESAPEAKE PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

**June 4, 2020**

This meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Advisory Board was held electronically on Zoom on June 4, 2020. Chairman Holt called meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Holt made the following announcements:

- Due to the number of attendees for this meeting, which includes vulnerable population members, social distancing cannot be observed. Therefore, an electronic meeting is being held pursuant and in compliance with the Amended Ordinance adopted by Chesapeake City Council on April 28, 2020.
- Audio of the meeting is being recorded.
- Secretary Fuqua confirmed that the announcement of the electronic meeting was posted on May 27, 2020 on the advisory board web page.
- Public comments will be received by audio during the Hearing of Citizens section on the agenda (after the Approval of Minutes), and the time limit is 3 minutes.
- Speakers will identify themselves verbally by name before speaking.
- All votes will be by roll call and recorded in the minutes.
- Attendees must be called on by name by the board chairman before speaking, or identify themselves by name before speaking at any time during the meeting.
- Essential business of the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Advisory Board is being conducted during this meeting.

Chairman Holt asked if anyone had any questions about the process and there were none.

<b>Members Present:</b>	Chuck Anderson, Christine Arrasate, Rick Bruner, Jean Carideo (non-voting ex-officio/GBBWHF), Donna Cannatella (non-voting ex-officio/CCC, Kevin Cole (non-voting ex-officio/CPS), Susan Dixon, Dani Feret, Berkley Gibbs, Chelsea Hall, Jean Holt (Chairman), Jennifer Hoover (Vice-Chairman), Lindy Huber, Annette Kelley, Bob Leedom, Phyllis Lewter, Chris Lowie (non-voting ex-officio/GDSNWR), Melissa Perry, Kimi Stevens and GERAL Stukes
<b>Members Absent:</b>	Kayleigh Hamel (non-voting Youth Liaison), and Mike Kos
<b>Staff Present:</b>	Mike Barber, Monica Christiansen, Thurman Diamond, and Cori Fuqua

## **ROLL CALL**

Ms. Fuqua called the roll. Attendance reflected a quorum with 16 voting members present and 1 absent.

## **MINUTES:**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:** The last board meeting was in March and the minutes were not available for approval so review and approval is tabled until the next meeting in August.

## **HEARING OF CITIZENS:**

None.

## **REPORTS:**

Due to meeting time limit constraints, Mr. Barber will give his updates and then board members can give their updates and ask any questions.

e. **Director Updates:** Mr. Barber gave the following updates:

- **COVID-19 effects on our parks, facilities and programs**– things happened very quickly back in March and there were many unknowns at that time so we had to sift through a lot of information and come up with a plan. The first focus was housekeeping and how we would respond to cleaning high-touch areas. Then we had to begin cancelling programs, classes, events, athletic activities, and shelter reservations, and closing community centers, dog parks, playgrounds, restrooms, skate park and the visitors center to the public. All of this happened within a 5-day period. We worked closely with the Health Department and regional parks and recreation departments in order to have a consistent message. While a few of our department staff were able to work from home, most were not – we still had to clean facilities, cut grass, monitor parks, etc. Many of our department staff cross-trained in other divisions to assist in cleaning tasks, parks and municipal grounds mowing and maintenance, and other areas. Most of our construction projects continued although some materials deliveries might have been slower or held up. We are getting ready to enter Phase II tomorrow and things will begin to open up again with restrictions. It's been a real challenge trying to interpret the phase guidelines and apply it to all of our different situations and it's a work in progress.
- The City instituted a hiring freeze early on at the end of March but did not furlough any employees. While our department took a hit on the income side due to program refunds, we didn't have the usual expenditures. In other departments, some of the capital projects will be delayed. Next fiscal year, some things that were approved that were new will be cut back or delayed like our historical division. We don't know what's going to happen as we move forward but it is

fortunate that the City is, and has been, financially conservative in the past and so far we have seen less of an impact than some of the other cities.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- None.

#### **HEARING OF BOARD MEMBERS:**

- Ms. Hoover – It has become even more apparent during this time that we need parks and recreation – we truly appreciate the team.
- Mr. Anderson – What is the status on the splash park? And thanks for keeping the grass cut! Mr. Barber said that the splash park was still moving along and almost completed. Maybe it can be opened at some point during Phase III.
- Ms. Kelley – How about food trucks? Mr. Barber said that this is another one that will have to wait until at least Phase III.
- Ms. Holt – Reminder that there is no meeting in July. The next meeting will be in August.
- Ms. Stephens – What information would you like us to share? Mr. Barber said that there will be a Facebook post in the morning that can be shared.
- Ms. Stukes – Fantastic job parks and recreation team!
- Ms. Carideo – So proud of Chesapeake! And we are still working to get the museum open.
- Ms. Perry – What about sports sharing equipment? Mr. Barber said that would fall under high-touch cleaning and sanitizing but a lot of the equipment is individually owned and utilized.
- Ms. Stephens – Yes, all activities should observe the 6 ft. physical spacing guidelines and limit close contact to under 15 minutes.
- Ms. Stukes – And use spray disinfectants.
- Ms. Cannatella – The Conference Center is awaiting reopening.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

**The next meeting will be on Thursday, August 6, 6:30 pm, either on Zoom or at the Indian River Community Center (2250 Old Greenbrier Road). NO MEETING IN JULY.**

Minutes submitted by Cori Fuqua, Secretary