

CHESAPEAKE PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

August 6, 2020

This meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Advisory Board was held electronically on Zoom on August 6, 2020. Chairman Holt called meeting to order at 6:30 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.
- Meeting information 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.

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

ROLL CALL

Ms. Fuqua called the roll. Attendance reflected a quorum with 14 voting members present and 3 absent.

MINUTES:

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Mr. Anderson made a motion to approve the March 5, 2020 minutes as presented. Ms. Kelley seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the board. Mr. Anderson then made a motion to approve the June 4, 2020 minutes as presented. Ms. Hoover seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by the board.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

None.

REPORTS:

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

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

- **Hurricane Isaias** – There was minor storm damage, mostly trees and limbs, and cleanup is going very well. Damaged and fallen trees are being handled on a priority basis. There was a tree on Great Bridge Community Center but it has been removed and damage is minimal. Northwest River Park had to be closed for a few days due to fallen trees and limbs, as well as power outage, but should re-open tomorrow.
- **Heron Landing Park** – We have a Purchase order and funding to begin Phase I design and construction so that will be ramping up this fiscal year.
- **Arboretum** – We have a Purchase Order and funding in place to begin renovations on the farmhouse and auxiliary buildings.
- **Northwest River Park** –
 - The renovation of the Marjorie Rein overlook and bridge is ahead of schedule and should be completed within 6-8 weeks. Originally it was expected to be by the end of the year.
 - The new restroom buildings, ranger station and activities building will be built from existing catalog plans with modifications (which will save a lot of design money), and will have a cedar look as well as a green roofing following the look and feel of the new gazebo. Installation of selected restrooms should begin early next year.

- **Cornland School** – A Purchase Order is making its way through City Hall and covers site work of the proposed village concept and relocating the building.
- **CIP** – Will be working on the update and new Capital Improvement Plan for the next 3-5 weeks to present to the City Manager.
- **New Budget Director** – The City Manager has selected the new budget director, Jonathan Hobbs, who will start in September. Good news is that he has years of municipal budget experience with the City of Virginia Beach and lives in Chesapeake.
- **Events** – All major and most smaller activities have been cancelled or postponed through September.
- **Shelter Rentals** – We are still able to rent shelters for groups of less than 50 people. Rokeby Center and The Portlock at South Norfolk are open for small group rentals as are the Community Centers.
- **Ray Wharton Retirement** – Ray retired as of 7/1/20 after 40 years in the system. Monica is overseeing the grounds side and Thurman the housekeeping side.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- None.

HEARING OF BOARD MEMBERS:

- Ms. Carideo – So impressed with Chesapeake operations and public works! They were still doing bulk pickups in the middle of a storm tonight. Regarding the Cornland School, where could she get more information on that? Could probably do a lot with it and the museum. Mr. Barber will have Ana Elezovic send her more information.
- Ms. Arrasate – How are we doing as far as hotel occupancy? Mr. Barber said that we had around 80% occupancy during the month of June which was the highest in the region. A significant number of visitors were from the Peninsula which was unusual but likely because folks are looking somewhere close by to stay to get a quick get-a-away.
- Mr. Gibbs – Is there any update on the turf in front of the stage at City Park? Also what is going on with the trucks being advertised at Centerville Park? Mr. Barber said that the turf manager gave it some extra attention with top dressing and aeration and it's looking great. The trucks are being displayed at Centerville Park as a sponsorship arrangement with one of the soccer groups.
- Ms. Stevens – Have you all received a lot of complaints about masks not being worn in facilities or parks? Mr. Barber said that we haven't had very many at all, it's been more of a concern expressed at athletic events.

- Ms. Holt – What is happening with the numbers for softball and volleyball, especially with number of spectators that will be allowed? Mr. Barber said that 50 people per field will be allowed between participants and officials. Spectators will not be permitted in the bleachers – that will be for players to spread out. Any spectators must bring chairs and spread out in the open spaces around the fields. For adult softball, teams will play double headers once a week to keep traffic down. We have been working closely with other municipal parks and recreation departments in the region to stay as consistent as possible.
- Ms. Cannatella – The Conference Center is limited to no more than 50 people per gathering so concentrating on smaller organizations for meetings. Will see what happens in September but have already lost some of the larger groups that had booked.
- Ms. Perry – When will the community centers start opening for rentals during the week for groups? Mr. Barber said that we are starting to do that now but it will be very limited due to member use and structured programs going on which really limits number of people allowed in the building. We are also limited as far as staff due to the hiring freeze but have a little more flexibility in numbers for weekend rentals
- Ms. Dixon did the African-American driving/walking tour and listened to the podcases. Very, very interesting!

NEW BUSINESS:

- None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 3, 6:30 pm, either on Zoom or at the Indian River Community Center (2250 Old Greenbrier Road).

Minutes submitted by Cori Fuqua, Secretary