

APPROVED 4/5/23

POOLESVILLE PARKS BOARD

March 8, 2023

19721 BEALL STREET

7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Attendance: Jeff Eck, Gayle Partain, Jeff McIntyre, Doug McKenney, Tim Pike, Town Engineer Strong, Supt. Parks & Streets King, Patrick Trainor, Terry Pierce, Asst. Town Manager Anderegg via Zoom

7:06 pm Call to order by Tim Pike

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEXT MEETING April 5, 2023 - possibly reschedule due to Spring Break

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES February 8, 2023, Jeff McIntyre motion to approve minutes seconded by Gayle Partain, all in favor abstention Pat Trainer.

OLD BUSINESS:

BOULDERING PARK

1. Frank Valez wanted to speak on bouldering park as he is very experienced in the bouldering world. Background as a single pitch instructor in Charlottesville VA. Bouldering is about camaraderie and athleticism. As far as this project, this is a nice opportunity for all ages, and for families to bring the climbing community. People already come for Sugarloaf and this would bring them to town.
 - Commissioners kicked it to the Parks Board to see the scope of the project.
 - The synthetic boulders come in different sizes. Does it make the most sense to get the largest one first to get the biggest bang? Frank Valez agrees that starting with a large one and then building around it would be fine, from climbers' perspective the more the better. Need to have a handful of problems. To make it kid friendly, you would want a smaller boulder for the kids. Is it possible to have one side that is novice and one that is advanced? Can go with threaded fitting on the boulder and then reconfigure the hand holds for bigger problems. Need to figure out how much space we have to work with. Put it near the skatepark, the footprint is about as big as the Town Hall building. Could get several boulders in a space this size. There is a design component to the problem design in which neighboring bouldering clubs would be helpful in designing the problems.
 - Town Engineer Strong wants to know what the footprint is going to be. Montgomery County parks is working on several boulder parks being designed in house, and will have a climbing component that ends on a slide, where you take the slide back down. Trying to get a hold of some of the boulders and the criteria they are using. Recommends you plan everything out from the area you want to fill and then coming back and placing the attributes in there and costs it out that way.
 - What is the max square footage 5,000 square feet before we have to worry about the water? Why don't we assume 5,000 square feet or less so we don't worry about the storm water management. We already know the size we want.
 - What is our next step? 5,000 square feet, put the biggest boulder on it with the fall zone and a smaller boulder for the beginners. Start out with one.

- Side note, when skatepark was conceived people didn't think it would be used. Maybe don't underestimate what will take place.
- Motion to recommend to Commissions to have John Strong to work on a preliminary plan with a 5,000 square foot boulder with a novice boulder. Second Jeff Eck, all in favor.

STEVENS PARK LIGHTS

- Asst. Town Manager Anderegg- sent letters to neighbors in February to get their input. We didn't receive any written feedback.
- John Robinson, a Spates Hill neighbor with a home adjacent to Stevens Park, had a few concerns about lighting. He is in favor of lighting along the trail. What concerned him about basketball courts, that if it was all lit up till 10:00 pm it would interfere with people going to bed earlier. The direction of the lighting, not interested in the Griswold's house. He does not completely object. The basketball court becomes inviting to the park if it is lit up and could invite other issues. These are his concerns. Grateful to see the letter and to voice our concerns.
- Lights would be on a timer like at Halmos Park. Timer is for 1 hour, after 10:00 pm no power to the facility. If not in use, they aren't on.
- Pickleball and Tennis courts are in question currently. Usually, they are focused down onto the courts rather than in the air. If the lamps were on the side where the houses are and facing in, the lights would not be facing the houses. Same thing with the pickleball, they would be on the side and not directly at the house. In the past the town added additional trees to help the situation.
- Still keeping it open for public input. People can share their comments on the town website. Or email Asst. Town Manager Anderegg which was in the letter.
- \$60,000 how often a year would this be used. Do we need them?
- Adding portable nets so Pickleball can play at Halmos Park. We have the stencils. The nets could be rolled to the side.
- Is this going to be on the budget, yes, it is a priority. Do we have to go with Commissioner Eck's solution? Only \$3,000. Halmos seems wider, could offset them closer to the nets. It is a lot cheaper than lights at Stevens Should we ask for feedback from the tennis community?
- Table lights at Stevens Park and put out an announcement and see what people say from there.

NEW BUSINESS:

STORAGE SHED AT HALMOS SOFTBALL FIELD

- Bill Sherrill and Dave Oristian PAA President and Vice President. Attended to discuss 2 storage options.
 - Halmos 2 facility where the baseball field is turning into softball, and a smaller storage container at Halmos 3 at the top of the hill at the backstop. Keep lime, batter's box template, small things. Will do spring cleanup March 25th. Halmos Park facilities have a lot of parent volunteers. Going to be reinvesting in the town facilities, in terms of manpower and monetarily.
 - Halmos Park 3 a little shed. Halmos Park 2 won't be able to get a Conex box before the season. Place it down the third baseline at the out of bounds fence, below the soccer field. Short term will be fundraising again, to support Supt of Parks & Streets King efforts monetarily. Want to reopen concessions at Halmos Park and Stevens Park in the Spring. Currently stored at Halmos Park, maybe a 5th of the container is sold. Just want to sell Gatorade and candy bars.
 - PAA will buy the sheds, looking for permission to put the shed up, and permission to put a temporarily slightly larger shed at Halmos Park 3 to develop a pad site. How soon do you want to put these in? Ideally prior to March 25th. Homeowners won't see these storage units. The High School soccer team put out a vinyl one last year and it does fine.
- Motion that we approve the request to put storage containers at Halmos Park 2 and 3. Second Pierce. All in favor.

FIELD DEDICATION POLICY DISCUSSION

- Bill Sherrill and Dave Oristian - question about naming a field inside of a park. There is a list with requirements of service and time from end of service for existing parks and the precedent for those things being named. But not necessarily a precedent for a court or field being named.

- We don't think anyone has ever asked this before. So new ground to dedicate fields. More for recognition. In the past people have bought benches in memory of.
- Asst. Town Manager Anderegg and Town Manager Yost discussed, is this different from the park naming policy? What criteria do we want to consider? With the way we do park and street names, is that in the town code? It is a commissioner approved policy. To make it clear that we are not doing things improperly, if we are going to do the field dedication, then we would need to define a policy with criteria.
- Think it is a good idea, cut and paste from current policy and adjust as fit for the parks. They don't have to be dead. Shouldn't go more granular like 2nd base named after someone.
- Asst. Town Manager Anderegg we need to bang it out at committee level. He will shoot around a baseline policy, and we can discuss at the next meeting the finer details.
- You have to stop at the field level and build the criteria into the policy. Do we limit it to fields, basketball courts, tennis courts?

Misc.:

- Advertising the soccer camp to be on a town park, going to charge for the camp. Activities permitted on parks and charging a fee for. Has to be a 501c3, nonprofit. Adventist Healthcare with the Soccer plex putting on the camp. So that is for profit. Don't have to worry about it too much until they ask for the permit.

SUPERINTENDENT OF PARKS & STREETS REPORT:

- The Eagle Scout pollinator project is underway.
- Eagle Scouts have also jumped in to put benches along the path.
- Next week replanting near the water treatment plant off the road. It does reseed itself, but some plants can overpower other plants. Will be plowed this week and be done by the end of the month.
- Planted a few trees near Brightwell Crossing loop. 3 red maples.
- Elgin Park trimmed some trees that Tim son put in years ago.
- People must be patient with plantings; it takes a few years to get established.
- Added more battery-operated equipment this month. Commercial stuff is getting better and better. Batteries last longer.
- Rehabbing Softball 2 at Halmos Park, sodding, and field mix. Redoing the infield on Halmos Park 2.
 - Potomac surveyors are helping survey the fields.
 - Team is proud of the work they've been doing on the field. It looks great.
- Containers for the parks are no problem, plenty of room and looking at the space, no problem. Trying to get it into place is going to be a challenge. The smallest container would be in the \$4,000 range.
- Pruned street trees and places need to catch up with planting.
- Mowing will begin next week, the earliest they've ever started mowing.
- Asst. Town Manager Anderegg will put out notice for a 6 month employee and 3 summer time helpers. \$15/hour for 40 hours a week.
- Ponds looking good, coming alive again.
 - Worked with the County for the Middle School Pond. Tama 2 pond is all squared away.
- Do we want to do a Spring walk? Might not be necessary this year. Everyone takes a minute to look at the Pollinator Patch.

TOWN COMMISSIONER LIAISON REPORT:

- Ordinance for backyard chickens did pass 4-1, restrictions in place.
- Request received from Upper Montgomery Volunteer Fire Department fund fireworks for 3 years
- Bond release for Fox Hunt Reserve
- Bond release for Brightwell crossing approved.
- PFAS budget amendment made to work on the wells-Need to repaint the water tank near high school. Recommended by Town Engineer Strong \$477,000 one side the Logo, other side, says Poolesville.
- Community events, \$56,000 dollars from budget
- Trash contract proposal, single or dual stream, Commissioners prefer dual stream.
 - Sustainable Poolesville and recommended dual stream. Select a bidder that uses a Montgomery County recycling center. Where does our stuff currently go- don't know?

- Speed Bump policy was adopted.
- Presentation by a Poolesville couple regarding a grocery co-op- idea came from Commissioner Brown, Lovettsville has a successful coop. Sourced from local farms and name brands as well. Idea that residents would become a member and shop there.
- Fair Access Committee hired a media company.
- Sarah Paksima working on video highlighting need for healthcare services in our area.
- AED public access, AARP for a grant to acquire outdoor AEDs in a heated box with telephone line, when removed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Tim Pike made a motion to adjourn, second Doug McKenney all agreed. Adjourn 8:30 pm