

Cromwell Valley Park Council, Inc.
Minutes – July 13, 2020

CVPC Board Meeting

Board members in attendance: John Canoles, Rick Childs, Bill Curtis, Kim Shapiro, Mia Walsh and Abe Yoffe.

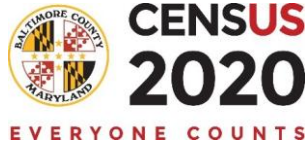
Park staff: Laura Page, Kirk Dreier

Guest: Corey Johns, Chief of Staff for Delegate Michele Guyton

Absent: Kate Joyce (Talmar, Inc.), Kenneth Keady, Kristin McFaul, Pat Novak, Joe Rector

1. PRESIDENT'S OPENING REMARKS

- a. Mia called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. This meeting was conducted online using the Zoom meeting app, as park buildings are now open only to staff during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, though the Willow Grove Nature Center is partially open to the public. In recent years, the Council has not scheduled a meeting in July; however, due to the impact of COVID-19 policies and rulings, we decided at the June meeting to convene an abbreviated meeting in July. Mia presented the agenda, which had been distributed by email. As only six board members were present, we did not have a quorum.
- b. Mia recognized the Park staff for their work on the production of virtual programming. Breena and Laura have been providing video content and guidance documents for activities, having committed to a new production every week for six weeks. Two have been uploaded for use by member families and the community. Kim sent out an initial blast to members and will send out another blast to all who have registered in CampBrain in the past. In addition, Park staff released a series of weekend in-person programs in late July and August.
 - (1) Abe asked a question regarding some planned onsite activities for August. How did we move from virtual programming to an onsite approach? Kirk joined the meeting and explained that the Department of Recreation and Parks gave the go-ahead for this by opening the buildings. The requirements of protocols for use of PPE, as well as provisions for social distancing, had to be worked out.
 - (2) Mia asked if the County office allowed the seasonal staff to come back, and Kirk said that the park now has its part-time staff. These include Mimi Knuth, Alisa Fried and Hannah Bartlett. Kirk said that he has been allowed to increase his biweekly staff member hours to 30. Mia asked if this would allow for any onsite summer camp, but Kirk said he doesn't feel it is safe to offer that.
 - (3) Rick asked if the County payroll would be covering the increased staff hours, and Kirk said that it would.
- c. Mia has fielded some concerns about performance of some equipment obtained for the production of virtual programming videos. A second iPad is available, and Mia will help configure this. One of the microphones is not working, so Mia asked to get it back so it can be returned. Kirk said that these wired mics are very limiting during the shoots. He and John had spoken about this and are considering a wireless system with a lapel mic, the use of which can minimize the effect of extraneous sounds in the audio recording. Mia asked Laura to send her a link for the mic they would like to have and the Council would order it.
- d. Dog Park request – Mia followed up on a request to provide a dog park at CVP. Mia surveyed the board and found that most were opposed to a dog park at CVP but were willing to listen to the proposer. Mia also talked to a representative of the Council at Lake Roland and was advised against doing it at Cromwell unless 100% of the Council would be on board with this and willing to support it. The cost for a dog park was very high at about \$250,000, and the dog park itself requires a lot of maintenance by Council volunteers. Regardless of the cons of the project, Mia will invite the proposer to present the idea at the August meeting.
- e. Baltimore County Fiscal 2021 Budget Update – The final details are still not posted on the County website. David Marks told Mia that the money proposed for work at Cromwell Valley was not cut and should remain in the budget as proposed.



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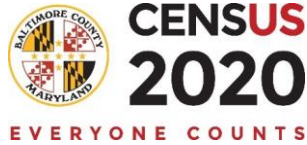
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2. GOVERNANCE

Meeting minutes acceptance from June meeting: Kim said that she had received no comments regarding the June minutes. The minutes were accepted and will be posted to the website to <https://cromwellvalleypark.org/about-cvpc/park-council/>.

3. MANAGEMENT

- a. Buildings and Grounds – (See the board packet for details.) Rick presented a proposal for installation of a gazebo as a memorial gift to the park. The donor, Mary Joan Burdyck and family, prefer an area on the Red Trail that is near a remote neighborhood access point. A simplified design has been suggested by the donors and it would serve as a resting spot for trail walkers. Kirk felt that it may not be advisable to do this as an Eagle Scout project, but perhaps consider it as a volunteer project. Rick said that the concern about the proposed location is that it would be difficult to monitor and may fall prey to vandals. Mia and Rick asked for thoughts on the plan.
 - (1) Abe suggested that we consider hiring a contractor for installation.
 - (2) Bill expressed concern about accepting the gazebo without a plan for any such donation proposals. There is what remains of an old gazebo in a more accessible part of the park that may be considered for refurbishment. Mia agreed that this would be a good option. (Mia has attached a picture of the “old” gazebo at the end of the minutes for reference.)
 - (3) John said that we should consider how such an installation could benefit the park, such as providing an opportunity to use it for an educational purpose or a storm shelter. To this, Kirk said the proposed location is not conducive, because of the surroundings, to serving an educational role.
 - (4) Mia mentioned that the memorial money could perhaps be applied to the rebuilding of the bridge on the Red Trail, a suggestion of Jason Barker. During the meeting Abe checked on the status of a grant request for money to help fund the bridge project and found that the application is in review.
 - (5) Rick said that he will discuss this once more with Mia and Kirk and meet again with the family about options for the memorial.
- b. Park Staff Report – Kirk
 - (1) Kirk said that this has been a busy time for park staff, considering the frequent changes coming down from County management due to COVID-19 closings, visitor management, and reopening concerns. The staff has been busy planning and producing material for virtual programs.
 - (2) Apple Maps Issue/Signage – Brookview Road cul-de-sac – Use of this area as an access to park trails has come to the park’s attention due to complaints from neighbors that it is frequently being used by members of other neighborhoods. This issue grew due to an online mapping program that led park visitors to this point. (Update: Apple Maps has FIXED the location in their app so that the users are directed to the Willow Grove Nature Center.)
 - Kirk brought the issue to Pat McDougall in Rec and Parks, and Kirk shared Pat’s perspective with the board through emails. The land being used by visitors is County property, which meets the road, and takes away some concerns about trespassing.
 - Kirk said a sign showing park rules has now been removed from this access, as it was leading visitors to believe this was an official access point.
 - A serious issue is the presence of parked cars, and the neighbors are planning to present a petition to the County to place “no parking” signs to discourage visitors from using this access.



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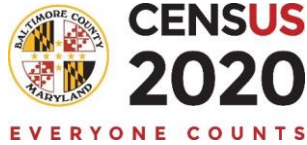
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(3) August Virtual Camps Proposal from Park Staff

- Alisa Fried would take the lead on 2 one-week programs in August, offering a half-hour live meeting each weekday with a group of youngsters. The first week 8/3 thru 8/7 would be for ages 8 to 10, and the second week 8/17 to 8/21 would be for ages 11 to 13. The staff has suggested a price of \$35 per child.
- Rick asked how many children could be accommodated, and Laura said that Alisa felt that 20 to 25 would be acceptable for a virtual meeting platform. The same format would be used for both groups, but it would be geared up for the older children.
- Mia said that, as a best practice, a second adult should be present for these virtual meetings. Olivia would possibly fill that role.
- Kirk said that they are considering pre-recording some video for use in these sessions, but Mia said that Zoom does not handle this well to stream videos as the buffering is often delayed, and suggested that still images should be used instead.
- Kirk asked Mia to set up CampBrain to handle registration for these programs.
- Bill asked if more than 25 participants could be accommodated, but Mia said that it is better for virtual interactions to keep the numbers lower if they are looking for synchronous participation.
- Abe asked if we thought we could get 25 kids per session, and Mia recalled the responses of her survey of Summer Camp parents which showed a low interest in this approach. John suggested that there was no real downside for the Council, as no financial outlay, and that it is good to experiment with different approaches.
- Mia said that R&P Director Roslyn Johnson offered that there may be an established virtual platform available through the county (Google Classroom, Zoom) and Kirk said that he would investigate that.

(4) Fall Harvest Festival – COVID-19.

- Kirk has concerns that too many of the activities at the event should not be done because of needs to social distance. He also said that vendors will also have issues. As all were agreed that holding the event carries too many safety concerns for the spread of virus, there was little additional discussion. The Board was in consent to postpone this event until 2021 and Mia will update the website to reflect a cancellation for 2020.
 - John asked if we should consider a fundraiser for the park to help offset the losses of FHF revenue. Laura said that the staff had discussed doing a streaming fundraiser during which people would be invited to donate. Mia suggested using the park as a site for family holiday photo shoots, and she knows photographers that would be happy to help us with this. A calendar for 2021 may also be considered, although this may not yield much profit due to the cost of production. Bill said that Café Press could do this.
- c. Membership Subcommittee under Finance – Kim (See the report included in the meeting packet.) Kim shared a request by long-term member Wayne Harman, retired Director of Rec. and Parks. He would like to update a booklet that he put together in the past that shares some formative information on the CVP land. He has some ideas and would like some help from the Council to reflect the current park land. Rick said that he would be happy to talk to Wayne about this. Kim will give Wayne Rick's contact information.
- d. Volunteers Committee – Kim (See attached report.)



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- e. Communications Committee – Mia asked if there was a plan for a fall newsletter mailing. Kim said that she had sent Sya some ideas, and John said that he had gotten a request from Sya. John was looking for a due date and Kim said that Susan will have her calendar in about 2 weeks, so we should meet that timing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 10th, a board meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Kim Shapiro, Secretary
7-14-20

2020 CVPC Meeting Dates

Voted Upon at November 4, 2019 Meeting

MEETING LOCATION: SHERWOOD HOUSE

DATE 2020	MEETING	Open to Public?	Time
Monday, January 13	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, February 10	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 9	Council Meeting (open to Public – Annual Meeting)	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 13	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 11	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 8	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, July 13	Brief Executive Board Meeting	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 10	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, September 14	Council Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, October 19 (moved from 10/12 Columbus Day)	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.
Monday, November 9	Executive Board Meeting (closed to Board only)	No	7:00 p.m.
Monday, December 7 (moved from 2 nd week)	Executive Board Meeting	Yes	7:00 p.m.