

MEETING MINUTES
Harrison Park Advisory Board Meeting
Ellijay City Hall Conference Room
Thursday, January 17, 2019

Board Attendees:

- Al Fuller
- Mike Lancaster
- Steve Jones
- Rick Lucas
- Susan Marino

Public in attendance:

- Linda Lancaster

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order by Mike Lancaster at 9:05 am.

Approval of Agenda:

- Mike made a motion to approve the agenda; Rick seconded the motion.

Public Input:

Linda provided some updates from recent Friends of Harrison Park, Inc., (FHP) discussions and activities.

- A visit to the [Green Meadows Nature Preserve](#) in Marietta, Georgia, took place last week in conjunction with Stay Active Ellijay. Jim Bearden from the Friends of Green Meadows hosted the group and provided ideas for park enhancements.

Some of the ideas the Friends would like to utilize include:

- Bluebird trails at Harrison Park - FHP members will develop a plan, map out the proposed areas for the birdhouses, and provide photos of the intended structures. The structures will take up a small footprint and be easy to relocate if necessary. Linda will finalize the documents for use at the next Council Workshop. The Council will be asked to concur with the plan so the project can be completed in February for the first nesting sites.
- Community gardens - Green Meadows has a large and highly desirable section of plots in place for community use, and the Ellijay Master Gardeners have asked to create a similar garden in Harrison Park. The City Council will be asked for approval of this concept, with the final location of the garden selected in the Harrison Park master plan. The Master Gardeners have asked for a letter of City support for grant pursuit purposes.

- Display Case – a request has been made for a place to post FHP events at the Park. It may be possible to attach another glass display case with a locking mechanism on the back of the case installed by the City. Mike will address this at the next City Council workshop.
- Dog Waste Disposal - a recommendation has been made for dog waste disposal stations. A plan for the maintenance of the stations and disposal of waste will be developed and submitted for approval to the City Council.
- There are ongoing issues with the existing Park Port-A-Lets. The doors cannot be fully closed and locked, and the current service schedule does not appear to be sufficient to maintain the units in state of cleanliness. The Port-A-Lets are currently leased by the City of Ellijay so this issue will be brought to the attention of the City Council.
- The need for a comprehensive master plan for Harrison Park was discussed; it will be useful for infrastructure planning, structure siting, documentation, reference, and grant proposal creation. Linda shared a draft of the Request For Proposal (RFP) the FHP plans to send out to prospective landscape architect firms (currently there are seven interested firms). Linda will revise the draft and provide copies for the City Council to review.

Old Business:

- Mike provided an update on grain bin bathroom design. He will reconnect with architect Michael Grant for the next set of detailed drawings.
- Mike has had some challenges organizing a meeting with Annaka Woodruff of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and Delmos Stone and Brittney Hickom of Northwest Georgia Regional Commission (<http://www.nwgrc.org>). Hopefully the Harrison Park Advisory Board can arrange a meeting with them in early February.
- Park Rules – a need for park rules was discussed. No action was taken at this time.

New Business:

- Discussion of desired 2019 HP event initiatives – e.g.; movies in the park, local music event, Walk with a Doc, etc.
 - Music events - the Park jazz festival plan was placed on hold until spring of 2020. Smaller music events were discussed and are desired. Dates should not conflict with other music events in Ellijay, particularly Acoustic Blends.
 - FHP will attempt to host a Park event each month. Piedmont Healthcare has offered to sponsor a walking event 3-4 times a year and the remaining months will be planned for a variety of events; e.g., yoga, child activities, etc. The target month to start the events is May 2019. After Piedmont provides their schedule the FHP will plan the remaining months and submit event request forms.

- A need has been identified for an additional hardscape path from the parking lot to the trail. If the City can identify a work date, the Friends of Harrison Park will assist with the work.

Announcements:

- The next Park Advisory Board Meeting will take place on Thursday, February 14, 2019 @ 9:00am.

Adjourn:

- The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 am.