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Jericho Underhill Park District
MEETING MINUTES-**DRAFT**

Jericho Underhill Park District---Minutes: March, 19, 2025

Present: Livy Strong, Dave Williamson, Paula VanDeventer, Kim Spaulding Bruce Blokland, Chris Greenwood

Absent: Donna Pratt

Public Present: none

Meeting called to order by Livy Strong, at 7pm.

1. Public Comment: none

2. Review of Draft 03/05/25 Minutes

Motion: Kim moved to approve the minutes as corrected; Paula seconded. motion passed unanimously

3. Financial Report: none

4. Park Management:

- Mowing Bids for 2025 season. The board opened four bids, and reviewed and compared.

Royal Landscapes LLC, St. Albans: \$27,000

Big Red, Fairfax: \$16,800

Wagners Landscaping, St. Albans: \$31,000

Stromme Properties, Richmond: \$13,400

After board discussion, Bruce motioned to accept Stromme Properties bid for the 2025 mowing season; Livy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Informational Topics:

-Officer roles and responsibilities: the board will review board members' roles and responsibilities position details and prepare to discuss and possibly elect officers at the next meeting.

Park Management:

-Park Signage: Livy and Paula distributed conceptual layouts for two signs that are the boards' priorities. The large sign, the main rules and reg sign, just before the bridge will be 24" x 36". After discussion, Kim motioned that Livy and Paula move forward with the signage at a cost of approximately \$180.

Dave seconded; the board passed unanimously.

-Spring Tasks:

Livy will order and coordinate delivery of the port-o-lets

Spring Work Day: There will be a park work day on April 19 to pick up debris and trash from the grounds and fields; to inspect the condition of the picnic tables, pressure wash the tables and distribute them around the park; to clean out the upper trails' culverts of debris; to clean up the Fieldstone bridges.

Chris will contact MMU football team to invite them to assist with tables and culverts.

Green Up Day is May 3rd. Discussion about inviting groups to come to the park to clean the grounds.

-People Counters: Livy, Chris and Paula discussed where to install the other two TRAFx counters purchased last year. Their recommendations:

1. Replace the current counter at the bridge with a TRAFx counter.
2. Install a TRAFx counter on the Connector trail, just before the Meadow/upper Kiosk area. This is a location that Livy and Bruce marked during an earlier walk, to help us count upper trail usage.

The new counters are more reliable than the current bridge counter during temperature extremes, and they give us a much more detailed view of when people are visiting our park, by month/week/day/hour.

Paula plans to install one of the new people counters at the bridge and hopes to accomplish this by March 26th. Paula will also publish a document on the MRP website to explain the deployment of the counters and their important use in gathering daily visitor data on park users.

-Interpretive Signs: no update

-Trails: Bruce recommended that we put up the trail restriction signs now, prohibiting bikes and horses, as the trails are snow-free and extremely soft and muddy. Livy to locate the signs.

Athletic Fields: Dave suggest we consider placing signs at the playing fields until mid-April and perhaps the front lawn as well, to restrict usage to allow the fields to dry out and harden. No update to FS East grant status. No update to initiating a wetland permit.

-Pavilion Repair: Dave reports that his first contractor had to withdraw from the project, but recommended another contractor, Rudy Bentlage.

-Bridge Repair: Bruce shared the recent draft of the RFP for under-deck and abutment repairs. Will continue to work on the RFP and present the final draft next meeting.

-Bridge Long Term Planning: Paula circulated an insurance carrier's quote for catastrophic coverage. Bruce reported no update for bridge replacement cost.

-25th Anniversary Celebration: Dave and Livy reported the event will be held 8/16/25 from 10am-2pm, with a rain date of 8/23. Activities being considered: Garden Dedication -Food Trucks -Music - River Regatta - Rock Painting Area -Corn Hole Play Area - Park Scavenger Hunt. Still looking for input on additional activities.

-Trail Maps: Livy reports progressing towards completion and it will include elevation lines.

-Bike Policy: VLCT determined that our trails are not located in a highway right-of-way and therefore not subject to a public hearing in order to prohibit the use of e-bikes. The board determined that our bike policy is in compliance with Vermont Statutes and will be updated and re-posted to the website.

-Riparian Buffer: Livy reports that the board can expect a final student proposal very soon. Following that, a specific management plan for mitigating the erosion.

-JUPD dog incident reporting form: Paula reports that the QR code is being updated.

-Emerald Ash Borer Project: Bruce drafting an informational document to post about the park's EAB management plan.

-Park Reservations: Paula reviewed current calendar in Google.docs

-Board of Trustees On-boarding: Chris will meet on Saturday 3/22 to complete.

-Lost and Found Receptacle: Livy asked the board to consider maintaining a L & F box at the park. Consensus was yes to proceed with this and locate it at the entrance fence.

- "Hands Off", a national movement has made plans to organize a gathering on Rte. 15, along the side of the park on Saturday 4/5 from noon to 2pm. The board's stance is that we do not allow political activities on the park's property adjacent to Rte. 15. The board is also concerned about cars parking in the park's parking lot and front field. Livy has a contact and will reach out for more info and to state our concerns.

-Fieldstone East trail grant: no update

-Wetland Permit: no update

Other Business:

Motion to adjourn by Dave, seconded by Livy. Approved unanimously at approximately 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Blokland

Meeting Recordings

Use the link below to access meeting recordings.

Note: Recordings are posted once minutes have been approved and are available for 30 days.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VDckTyvioosbWqEacYly9pgrzYdM8mzi>