

The City of Frederick, Maryland
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
Minutes of April 12, 2016
(Approved 5/10/2016)

Members Present: J. Baldi, M. Long, S. Costlow, J. Grove, L. Hill, R. Fox

Staff Present: B. Smith, K. Winterstein

Regrets/Absent: D. D'Agostino, M. Lawrence, D. Weaver, M. O'Connor

Meeting called to order by J. Baldi at 7:02 p.m.

1. Review of the March 8, 2016 minutes:

Motion by M. Long to approve the minutes as submitted;
2nd by L. Hill;
All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Review and discussion of a request by Melanie Williams and Colleen Baldree for a Request for Waiver of Fees for their proposed 'Cart With A Heart' at the Carroll Creek Park Trellis on Tuesday's through Thursday's, June 7 through October 28, 2016. C. Baldree stated they have formed a 501(c)3 non-profit organization in hopes of providing a pay it forward hot dog cart. The community would have an opportunity to purchase a meal for someone who cannot afford it. Will still give food to those who are in need in this prime area. Confirm that they plan to be present Tuesday through Friday during the lunchtime hours of 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. June through October 2016.

J. Grove inquired how it is determined who can afford a meal and who cannot. C. Baldree stated they will take their word.

J. Baldi reminded everyone present the criteria as set forth in City Code Sec. 6-21. – Waivers for nonprofit organizations:

(c) Criteria. In determining whether or not to waive or reduce a fee in accordance with this section, the Board of Aldermen shall consider:

- (1) the benefit to the public and the City; and
(2) the effect on and fairness to other users.

Several letters were read into the minutes from six (6) firms closest to this area expressing concern and to deny the request as it creates physical challenges as well as the north and south entrances off of South Market Street are limited. Concerns listed in the letters:

- cleanliness of the area and the additional trash that would be created;
- loss of potential paying customers to existing businesses;
- possible negative impact on existing businesses in the area;
- possible causing gathering of groups impeding food traffic through the area.

All letters stated that the Commission deny of this request.

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Cpl. Rebecca Carrado of the Frederick Police Department addressed the applicant as there are so many resources that provide food to the less fortunate in the downtown area while the west side is lacking in this resource. C. Baldree stated that the foot traffic expectation was the main reason why this location was chosen.

Cpl. Carrado provided several years of call history due to littering and loitering. Further information was provided a brief explanation of all the initiatives taken to make this area more user-friendly to all who want access to the park unimpeded. Concern over trash issues was also mentioned. M. Williams offered that any water needed is self-contained in the cart. M. Long read into the minutes, City Code Article IV. – Vendors and Peddlers, Sec. 22.65. – Regulations and conditions. (d) Each person issued a license under this article shall provide, at their own expense, separate containers for the disposal of recyclable and nonrecyclable refuse, and shall remove both containers and dispose of said refuse at the end of each business day.

M. Long inquired about the statement on the application that ‘Cart With A Heart’ would be ‘providing homelessness awareness and outreach between those who can’t afford it and those who can’. How is that to be accomplished? Why this particular location? C. Baldree offered that this seemed like the best location for this.

Cpl. Carrado offered that there are several organizations serving the homeless in the downtown area such as:

- Beacon House serves lunch every day;
- Frederick Community Action Agency serves dinner every night;
- Several churches serve food also.

Cpl. Carrado feels there is enough food service for the homeless in this area. Another possible location would be better. Currently more funds are being spent in this particular area to discourage misuse of the area. Putting this cart in this area would work to disrupt over two (2) years of work to get this entrance area more user-friendly. Fear that it will create more ‘quality of life’ nuisance calls.

M. Long asked to confirm the dates and potential number of days the cart will be operational; eighty-three (83) days for a total rental fee waiver of \$2,520. C. Baldree and M. Williams confirmed that is correct.

R. Fox stated that while all nonprofits that request a waiver of fees and want to do good things for the community are welcome, the rental fees are in place for a purpose. These areas still have to be maintained and kept to a standard. J. Grove offered that previous requests that were approved or partially approved served large numbers of people and were free to attend, such as the Festival of the Arts.

Motion by L. Hill to recommend to the Mayor & Board of Aldermen denial of the Request for a Waiver of Fees for ‘Cart With A Heart’ at the Carroll Creek Park Trellis June through October 2016;
2nd J. Grove;
All in favor.

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3. Staff updates:

- Welcome Sarah Costlow to the Commission;
- March meeting Mayor & Board updates:
 - High Wheel Race beer and wine request at City Hall Park approved;
 - Celebrate Frederick Candlelight House Tour Hospitality House fee waiver approved;
 - Frederick Festival of the Arts – beer and wine as well as fee waiver request are on the April 21, 2016 meeting;
 - FY17 Proposed Budget – working on Parks & Recreation presentation for April 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Board Room.
- Westside Regional Park Feasibility Study consultant concept plan will be presented at the Mayor & Board Workshop of Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 3:00 p.m.’
- Shared Use Path construction under Route 15 is coming up early May;
- Culler Lake progress – sorting through silt removal process with possible mid-July completion.

4. Election of Officers:

- Chairman – Joe Baldi
- Co-Chairman – Rob Fox

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kristi A. Winterstein
Recording Secretary