City of Martinsville

Minutes –**Parks Committee Meeting**
Wednesday, September 23rd, 2026

Attendance: Robert Lovell, Caitlin Dill, Harley Craig, Wendy Isbell, Chris Perry, Tiffani Higginbotham, Vicky & Jeff Kinyon, and Julie Higginbotham.

Meeting called to order at 6 pm.

1) Discuss parks in the city of Martinsville. Discuss how the City and volunteer organizations can partner to maintain and keep our parks safe and beautiful in the future. Members of Martinsville on the Move were present to collaborate in this special meeting.

   -Harley Craig states Brenda retired from taking care of the parks, there is a definite need for someone moving forward.
   -Bob Lovell suggested the City could partner with Martinsville on the Move to get a part-time person, a full-time person is really needed to include ALL parks (bike trails, Woodlands, etc.)
   -Tiffani Higginbotham speaks on many great ideas Martinsville on the Move has thought about, with the main goal of maintaining and improving our parks. One idea is to utilize an online management service to have signups available for pickleball tournaments, basketball tournaments, 5ks, etc. through an easy online process. Concession stands could raise more money by having a mobile concession (like a trailer) to visit all parks during events and activities. Another idea is to rent out equipment. The goal is to bring more people to the parks with new and fun ideas, which in turn raises more money to pay for an employee for the up keep of the parks. Currently relying on volunteers means we could run out of help and having kids help out for community service hours isn't a priority like it used to be.
   -Harley likes the idea that ultimately the parks help pay for themselves. With the mobile concession it brings up the questions of who would work it and who would oversee it? The City would own it, but volunteers to run it could be hard to find, may need funds to pay someone to work it, possibly utilize a work program.
   -Julie Higginbotham suggests ice cream being sold at the parks, trying out two set days a week to start to see if it's something worth trying longer term. Martinsville on the Move may be able to budget funds for Summer help for the parks.
   -Bob explains if an ASLAD grant is received a bathroom can be built by the new courts which could include a small concession in the back. Someone can work 999 hours a year without being considered full time for "park maintenance," a valid driver's license would be needed for this full-time position. We are in need of a short-term person to start for immediate maintenance and clean up, they would not need to have a driver's license. There are currently two full-time City employees who have expressed interest in the potential full-time parks position. One of them is close to retiring, switching roles would be a pay cut and would affect his retirement. The other employee already does work like this on the side and has technology education and experience that could be beneficial in the future of this role. If one of these employee's takes this new park position the City would need to hire and replace the employee's current position.

You get what you pay for with this position, the town needs to capitalize on the amazing parks to build and grow more. It would be a position utilized year-round for events and maintenance.
-Harley states the parks are City properties that need to be invested and taken care of.
-Bob says the council would need to vote yes to invest in this position. Good things are in the works for Martinsville. ID Casting's is investing into the City and there are future plans for a TIF district, many things to look forward to.

-Harley in other news Mallory Jenness says with the grafting project there looks to be 3 that took. There will need to be a time set for tree planting.
-Wendy Isbell says Lynn Park will be getting cleaned up by high school students from classes Greenhouse 1 & 2.
-Tiffani asked if there was any empty building not being used by City. There are many travel ball teams constantly looking for spaces available to rent for practices, that would be a good opportunity to rent space and earn income back into the parks if so.

--Motion by W Isbell, 2nd by C Perry, to close the meeting.
Record Vote:

Perry	Yes	Isbell	Yes
Craig	Yes		

Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned 6:30 pm.