

**GERMANTOWN PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 25, 2011**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Germantown Parks and Recreation Commission for August 25, 2011 took place at Germantown Parks and Recreation, 2276 West Street.

**PRESENT:**

Kevin Young  
Jerry Gee  
Mary Anne Gibson  
Bill Lansden  
Angela Sorenson  
Rodney Strop  
James Wilson  
Lisa Parker

**ABSENT:**

William Kenley  
Mike Palazzolo, Alderman

Pam Beasley, Director of Parks and Recreation

**GUESTS:**

Andrew Wilensky

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 26, 2011

There were no corrections noted.

It was moved by Mrs. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Strop to approve minutes of May 26, 2011.

Young – yes; Gee – yes; Gibson – yes; Sorensen – yes, Strop – yes, Wilson – Yes.

Ms. Beasley opened with the introduction of student liaison, Andrew Wilensky, who is a senior at MUS and a longtime resident of Germantown. Mr. Wilensky gave a brief history on himself. Mr. Wilensky will act in an advisory capacity to the Commission bringing a youthful perspective to programs, challenges, opportunities, and projects.

CAPRA REACCREDITATION VISITATION REPORT AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Beasley gave a summary of the CAPRA Visitation Team Report and thanked the Commission for their participation in the events. The department met every fundamental standard. The CAPRA board will meet on November 2, 2011 and vote on the reaccreditation.

## FARM-BASED EDUCATION ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

A slide presentation was given to the Commission highlighting the Farm-Based Education Association and their role in the Bobby Lanier Park project. Ms. Beasley discussed her trip to Massachusetts in early April of this year with the Farm-Based Education Association and the need to get children back outside to connect with nature. Ms. Beasley spoke on her belief that the biggest opportunity to be had as a Park Commission and a Parks and Recreation department is following the trend of helping people get outdoors. The two-day conference was sponsored by the Farm-Based Education Association which is a network of about 100 public farms. Some of the types of programs utilized by these farms are special events, family programs, adult programs, field trips, outreach programs, programs for special needs, and therapeutic recreation. Nature is the basis for a lot of the science and art programs. Volunteerism is a large part of the farm-based programs.

The staff has partnered with the Farm-Based Education Association to provide consulting services to support the firm selected to design the master plan for the Bobby Lanier Park. The Farm-Based Education Association is forming a team of “practicing” farm educators, administrators, and operators to assist Germantown in the development of this unique project.

## SPRING SPORTS UPDATE

Ms. Natalie Ruffin provided an update on sports participation statistics, after action reports, feedback and requests from sports providers. The report included spring sports statistics. The upcoming soccer season was highlighted with our new provider Germantown Legends/Happy Feet. The football league participation is up a little from last year. Baseball league challenges were discussed which included scheduling issues. The provider requests for the upcoming season were also discussed.

## DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Dogwood Park Playground Update: There will be a community build on Saturday, October 1, 2011 from 8 a.m. until noon. There should be a press release within the next week making a public announcement. Landscaping installation is scheduled for November 12, 2011 from 10 a.m. until noon.
- Riverdale Phase II Report: Completed.
- Skate Park: Repairs were made but no big improvements.
- Special Needs tentative date is Wednesday, September 14, 2011 at 5 p.m.

## COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION LIAISON REPORTS

A brief report was given by Ms. Lisa Parker.

## RECREATION UPDATE

Ms. Natalie Ruffin reported that the FYI is now on the City website. There is a listing of all upcoming activities. The kickoff will be the Pops in the Park followed by the Small Fry Tri. Cheerleading will also begin in the fall. Ms. Lisa Parker gave a brief overview of the Pops in the Park Concert.

On a separate note, Mr. Young spoke about Johnson Road Park which is near his new home and how they have no access to the park. He would like to see walking access to the park for those who live nearby and are not of age to drive. Ms. Beasley suggested a possible public easement through Germantown Baptist Church. Ms. Lisa Parker suggested speaking with the neighborhood association.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.