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## Minutes

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| **Parks & Trails Initiative**  **Stakeholders Meeting #46** |
| **September 12, 2016** |

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| **I. Welcome / Updates from Last Meeting** |

* Discuss progress on donation requests for Booker T. Washington Park. *Don Ford said that Wanda Davis had contacted several people about donations for the picnic shelters but had not heard back from them. Steve Swoope said that he had spoken to someone about funding one of the picnic shelters and received a positive response from them. Don Ford gave the following update on the work at Booker T. Washington Park. The bathrooms floors have been painted with epoxy paint, the interior walls will be painted, the flush valves on the toilets will be checked and replaced if needed, new basketball goals have been installed at the remaining basketball court, the fencing at the tennis court have been removed and a sealer applied to the surface and a parking area has been created at the basketball court near the entrance. A discussion was then held about funding for the remaining work and what sources were available. Darlene Burcham said that she had approached the Alleghany Foundation for a grant for Booker T. Washington Park and the park did not meet the criteria set forth by the Alleghany Foundation to qualify for a grant. Don Ford said that he had been talking with Mitch Reno of Cunningham Recreation and Mr. Reno had contacted the Governor of the Kiwanis Club and Schuyler Fury the local Kiwanis representative and they would assist the town in procuring playground equipment for the park. However, some decisions need to be made on the type of equipment and for what age groups the equipment should be designed. Reverend Thomas said she would take the initiative to contact the churches to start fundraising for the playground equipment and the picnic shelters. Reverend Thomas also asked if someone would be willing to speak to a group about the proposed renovations and she was asked to get a time and date to set up a meeting. Don Ford provided Ms. Cooper with a catalog from Gametime equipment so she could meet with some residents to make some selections for the playground equipment. Ms. Cooper also stated that there is a problem with flooding in the picnic shelter and the bathrooms during rains. Darlene Burcham stated that Public Works cleaned out the ditch along the south side of the park and hopefully that will take care of the problem. Ms. Cooper was also concerned about the functioning of the bathrooms and Ms. Burcham suggested that we see if the fixes being done by Public Works will work before making any additional changes. Ms. Cooper suggested using the old tennis court as a large picnic shelter and the using the old basketball court at the west side of the park for corn hole. There was also discussion regarding the other parks in town and Jeff Irvine commented that he would like to new playground equipment in Memorial Park but realizes that funds will have to be raised for that equipment. Booker T. Washington Park is the next priority with Memorial Park and Matthews Park to follow; however, there is no established time line for these changes.*
* Update status of segment 3 of the Smith Creek Corridor Trail. A rail will be added to the steps to Lowell Street and the material has been ordered. A realignment of Segment 2 is complete and we are working on getting the plans out for bid. It is the town’s intention to apply for another VDOT grant to replace the pedestrian bridge the will connect Segment 2 to Segment 3.
* Update on Linden Park. New playground equipment has been ordered for the 2-5 year old play area in Linden Park. A nearby resident commented on the lack of light in the picnic shelter near the concession stand and about skateboarders using the picnic tables as jumps and the basketball court for skateboarding. She was urged to contact the police when these activities were witnessed.
* Dick Deaton gave an update on the installation of signage in the National Forest directing trial users to Clifton Forge. Some of the signs have been installed and others will be installed when Yvonne Norman of the Forest Service has time available to work with him. The trails have downed trees across them and they have to walk in to install the signs. Douthat State Park draws mountain bikers from the larger east coast area to compete in the races held in Douthat State Park and having Clifton Forge as a destination while at Douthat would be a great benefit to the Town.

**Attendees: Darlene Burcham, Gary Price, Reverend Rosalind Thomas, Evelyn Cooper, Hope Lee, Andy Bostic, Karen Swoope, Steve Swoope, Tina Hostetter, Jeff Irvine, Carl Brinkley, Sandra Denius, Catherine Drummer and Dick Deaton**