

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 20, 2022

The Stafford County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, October 20, 2022, at The George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Jay Rucker.

SILENT ROLL CALL

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent Reported</u>	<u>Absent Not Reported</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Vincent Applewhite	P			Brion Southall	Terry Mitchell
David Carpenter	P			Judy Sokolowski	Scott Huff
Eric Futrell	P				John Holden
Michael Parkyn	P				Barbara Trehorne
Christopher (CW) Reed	P				Mikel Manchester
Jay Rucker	P				Buck Cox
<i>Martin Martinez, PC</i>			<i>A</i>		Greg Baker
<i>Alyssa Halstead, SB</i>	<i>P</i>				Mark Ellis
Voting members in bold					

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes from the July meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Barbara Trehorne, Greg Baker, Scott Huff, and Mark Ellis spoke on behalf of Stafford pickleball players, the increase in the popularity and players of the sport, and the need for more courts.

NEW BUSINESS

- Lease Property at Duff Green Park (Brion Southall)
Ms. Mikel Ann Manchester, Executive Director of Operations with RIVERE, made a presentation on behalf of her company regarding RIVERE's request to lease the County's 60+ acres of undeveloped property at Duff Green Park for an environmental center and botanical garden. Ms. Manchester asked for a recommendation from the Commission on the proposal, as this item is scheduled to go to the Board of Supervisor's meeting on 11/15/22.

Jay Rucker, Chair, declined to bring this item to a vote; instead responding it was too big of a decision to make now with limited information. He requested Rivere's proposal and sketches and said Rivere can take this item to the Board of Supervisors on November 15, and if the Board sends it back to the Commission, the Commission can discuss it further at their meeting

on November 17.

Eric Futrell: the proposed 12 acres for a playground should allow for staff and Commission members' input.

Jay Rucker: urged members to do their research on this project and send questions to Brion Southall or Judy Sokolowski. Ms. Manchester is to send information to Brion via hard copy/pdf; website for more information is RivereCenter.com

After a short time, John Holden, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, said this item would be rescheduled to the December Board meeting, which would allow the Commission to discuss this item again at their November meeting.

- Pickleball Courts at Pratt and Curtis Parks (Brion Southall)
 - Additional pickleball courts for Pratt and Curtis Parks are included in the FY24 CIP
 - Courts available at Rowser Building, Courthouse Community Center, Melcher's Complex, Curtis Park, Pratt Park
 - Pickleball open gym is available at Rowser on Thursday nights
 - Two basketball courts at Curtis Park will be studied for use; looking at converting them to pickleball courts
 - Master plan for Musselman Park is underway, which includes a conceptual plan; public meetings will be held for input. Proffers of \$600,000 to begin Musselman Park; \$800,000 for Patowomeck Park
 - Michael Parkyn requested staff to provide a list of pickleball players
 - Jay Rucker asked members to talk with their Board member and relay the interest in pickleball

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None.

LIAISON REPORTS

- Planning Commission Liaison (Martin Martinez) – not present
- School Board Liaison (Alyssa Halstead)
 - Asked if PRCF has electric signs at parks to advertise? Wants to actively engage the community.
 - Jay Rucker asked about using schools' signs to request "gift" signs to parks?
 - Michael Parkyn asked the state of pickleball evolution in schools?

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

- Eric Futrell: Asked about boys' volleyball clubs at high schools; Mountain View High School had a club and was disbanded. One club was shut down by VHSL, which indicated they would

not back “clubs”; however, other areas, such as Ashland, has VHSL sanctioned clubs. His son finished the Eagle Scout project refurbishing 18 benches; USA Volleyball national tournament was held recently, with Nicholas Futrell taking 3rd place in the nation; goes to Richmond to play; there are two sand volleyball courts at Brooks and Curtis Parks; could three more courts be put in at Brooks? Requested sand volleyball courts be placed on next month’s agenda.

- David Carpenter: Will educate himself about pickleball
- C.W. Reed: Welcome, Michael; thanks to PRCF, doing great work; went to Curtis Park the end of September, and it looked excellent; looking forward to discussing Rivere next month
- Vincent Applewhite: glad to be back
- Jay Rucker: encouraged attendance and conceptual plan meetings; asked about the “pay to park” summer pilot program at Historic Port of Falmouth. Brion Southall said most of the money was collected on the weekends, with many families visiting from other areas.

STAFF REPORTS

- No questions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Brion Southall)

- Present information to the Board on 11/1/22 of summer operations at Historic Port of Falmouth
- Held Special Olympics disc golf tournament at Curtis Park the weekend after hurricane Ian; more than 100 people attended and raised more money than in past years
- Carl Lewis Community Center caught fire in July; County received \$200,000 from insurance; asking the Board on 11/1/22 to budget and appropriate these funds to raze the building; there is \$700,000 in proffer funds to plan/design a new building in its place
- Fall Festival was held at Pratt Park on 10/8/22, with the 10th Annual Pumpkin Derby being one of the popular events of the festival; over 500 people attended
- Thursday Pickleball Drop-in program has 5 players

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

:jls

Approved 11/17/22