

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
Thursday, November 17, 2022

The Stafford County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, November 17, 2022, at The George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Eric Futrell.

***SILENT ROLL CALL***

| <u>Members</u>                | <u>Present</u> | <u>Absent<br/>Reported</u> | <u>Absent<br/>Not Reported</u> | <u>Staff</u>    | <u>Guests</u>    |
|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>Vincent Applewhite</b>     | <b>P</b>       |                            |                                | Brion Southall  | Mikel Manchester |
| <b>David Carpenter</b>        | <b>P</b>       |                            |                                | Judy Sokolowski | Buck Cox         |
| <b>Eric Futrell</b>           | <b>P</b>       |                            |                                |                 |                  |
| <b>Michael Parkyn</b>         | <b>P</b>       |                            |                                |                 |                  |
| <b>Christopher (CW) Reed</b>  | <b>P</b>       |                            |                                |                 |                  |
| <b>Jay Rucker</b>             |                | <b>A</b>                   |                                |                 |                  |
| <i>Martin Martinez, PC</i>    | <i>P</i>       |                            |                                |                 |                  |
| <i>Alyssa Halstead, SB</i>    |                | <i>A</i>                   |                                |                 |                  |
| Voting members in <b>bold</b> |                |                            |                                |                 |                  |

***APPROVAL OF MINUTES***

- The minutes from the 10/20/22 meeting were unanimously approved.

***PUBLIC COMMENTS***

- None.

***NEW BUSINESS***

- Sand Volleyball Courts at Brooks Park (Eric Futrell)  
Mr. Futrell requested more sand volleyball courts in Stafford; Brooks Park has a very nice one. Question to Brion Southall: Is there one sand volleyball court at Curtis Park? Brion Southall: It has turned into a grass volleyball court. The volleyball court at Brooks Park is not a professional court. The CIP includes additional volleyball courts in 2032.

Mr. Futrell: Some schools have “No Trespassing” signs on their properties. There is more to be discussed with schools regarding sharing of facilities. More basketball courts are needed in the northern portion of Stafford. Mr. Southall: the CIP includes additional basketball courts in 2026.

***UNFINISHED BUSINESS***

- Rivere: Lease Property at Duff Green Park  
Mikel Manchester provided more information regarding Rivere’s proposal to lease property at Duff Green Park for its Ecological Center and botanical gardens. After much discussion, the

Commission determined it would not be in the best interest of Stafford County or its residents to give up the property and forego the County's development of the property into an active recreational area. The Commission said Rivere would need to find comparable property in the George Washington District, which could replace the requested land at Duff before the Commission would consider an option to lease the Duff property. The Commission then passed the following motion:

Vincent Applewhite motioned, and C. W. Reed seconded, to recommend Rivere explore comparable property in the George Washington District, which could be substituted for the property at Duff Green Park, and bring their proposal back to the Commission for potential consideration of voting on an option to secure comparable acreage to the Duff Green Park property. Motion carried unanimously.

### ***LIAISON REPORTS***

- Planning Commission Liaison (Martin Martinez)
  - We have seen an increase in development requests
  - Stafford is losing land to development
  - Stafford is running out of time for land
  - Would like to work together on proffers and parks
- School Board Liaison (Alyssa Halstead) - Absent

### ***COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS***

- Michael Parkyn: Rivere's job is to do their homework and provide facts; they need to provide more facts
- C.W. Reed: Thanks to Parks and Recreation for all of their hard work; Happy Thanksgiving
- Vincent Applewhite: With land disappearing, we need not wait too long to get the ball rolling in developing the park land we have. If someone wants County-owned land, they need to provide a substitute; we also need to ask, "How do they meet our mission?"
- Eric Futrell: Enjoyed our discussion on the Duff Green land, and I learned a lot. Comments to Brion Southall: I coached youth volleyball and worked with Kris Clemet and had a great time working with youth; fantastic program. Kris did a fantastic job!

### ***STAFF REPORTS***

- No questions.

### ***DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Brion Southall)***

- Flag football had 609 players and 64 teams
- Youth Volleyball had 212 players and 27 teams
- Charlene Aitken-Cade is our new Gymnastics Recreation Manager and has 39 years' experience in gymnastics; 7 years with the County
- On Sunday, 11/13/22, Stafford Royals Gymnastics kicked off the 2023 competition season.

The boys team competed in Woodbridge with the Level 3 team which placed 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Virginia Recreation and Park Society's Conference was held Nov 5-8; eight staff attended; topics included discussions related to leadership, team development, communication, youth and adult program development, and staff engagement
- Fall Festival was rescheduled to 10/8 due to inclement weather; approximately 1200 people attended; 21 racers entered the Pumpkin Derby
- Community Recreation staff participated in the Stafford County Public Schools' Multicultural Day; staff showed the movie, *Coco*
- Stafford Tree Lighting will be held 12/2/22 at 7pm at the Government Center

***ADJOURNMENT***

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

:jls

***Approved 1/19/23***