

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 20, 2023

The Stafford County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, April 20, 2023, at Courthouse Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 PM by Michael Parkyn.

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	Joe Brito
David Carpenter	P			Judy Sokolowski	Michael Nofy*
Eric Futrell	P				James Purten
Michael Parkyn	P				Christina Mellos
Christopher (CW) Reed		A			Jenny Stevens
Jay Rucker		A			Matthew Shilts
<i>Martin Martinez, PC</i>		<i>A</i>			
<i>Susan Randall, SB</i>	<i>P</i>				
Voting members in bold					
<i>*Last name was illegible</i>					

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes from the March meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Christina Mellos: concerned about Section 2 of the Belmont trail, as the trail appears to go through private property on Ingleside Drive. Neighbors in this area already have issues in the nearby wooded area and are concerned for children's and families' safety.
- Jenny Stevens: concerned about Section 2 of the Belmont trail, as there are already issues with maintaining current trails; the trail is by a dangerous river, which changes quickly; doesn't want a trail going through her yard.
- Matthew Shilts: in favor of the trail to the waterfall; family has been there; beautiful, scenic; it would be great to be able to put boats in the river from Route 17.
- James Purten: attended meeting to observe, support improvements; there are solutions to every problem; eager to hear presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

- Park Trails from Belmont to Cannon Ridge (Joe Brito)
Joe Brito presented information on the proposed trail from Belmont to Cannon Ridge. Said trail would be built on easements and rights-of-way; not on private properties. Looking for volunteers to help build trails and one bridge; going to get up a petition to ask Warren Buffet to finance land along the river owned by Fredericksburg; requested staff to appoint a special committee to fact-find; fears developers will want to make the area private access and require

people to pay to enter; wants the areas to be public access; four trail options, two most feasible options; trail is in the 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

Michael Parkyn said it is a great idea to discuss this multi-faceted project; will research and contact his Board member; happy to start the conversation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None.

LIAISON REPORTS

- Planning Commission Liaison (Martin Martinez) – Not present
- School Board Liaison (Susan Randall)
 - Schools have a lot of work to do with the FY24 approved budget, including three new schools and site selections

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

- Eric Futrell
 - Said the Red Fines Awards Ceremony was a great event
 - He had a very enjoyable experience coaching Youth Fall Volleyball; watched kids at their first practice and then saw them progress to the championship games; encouraged parents to step out and volunteer to coach a team
 - His son played travel volleyball for years and will soon be the first/among first in Stafford County to play NCAA Division 3 volleyball with Randolph Macon
 - Asked Brion Southall about the vehicle break-ins reported at last month's meeting. Brion said there have been no more vehicle break-ins, and staff was able to obtain the license plate number from the same car that broke into a vehicle at the Stafford Gym & Rec Center and Chichester Park; license plate number was reported to the Sheriff's Office.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Brion Southall)

- Earth Day event held at Patawomeck Park with over 1300 elementary school kids
- Thanked Susan Randall for her help with the job fair
- Hired 30 lifeguards and staff for camps, and had enough staff to offer an additional camp
- Need staff for park maintenance

Susan Randall encouraged Brion Southall to contact Dave Eschelman at the School Board Office regarding kids who need experience and earn credit for work-based learning.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

:jls

Minutes approved 5/18/23.