

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 16, 2024

The Stafford County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, May 16, 2024, at The George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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	Allen Watkins
Matthew Cavalier		A		Camille Giles	
Stephanie DeMarco	P				
Eric Futrell			A		
Christopher (CW) Reed		A			
Jay Rucker	P				
James Tully	P				
<i>Martin Martinez, PC</i>	<i>P</i>				
<i>Dr. Elizabeth Warner, SB</i>			<i>A</i>		
Voting members in bold					

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes from the April 18, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Mr. Allen Watkins again discussed his desire for Belmont Park. Believes this land should be used for an indoor recreation facility and fields outdoors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Smoke-free Parks:** Brion Southall received response from County Attorney recommending that we do not move forward with signage suggested by “Share the Air” initiative, as enforcing this would be legally impermissible due to State codes. Brion mentioned that E-cigarettes are currently included in the county ordinance about not smoking (tobacco products) in buildings.
- **Autumn Ridge Tennis Courts:** Brion said that Garrisonville Board Supervisor, Dr. Yeung met with Autumn Ridge’s HOA about this. Stephanie DeMarco echoed that residents will vote on whether or not they’d like to donate courts to P&R, but the voting hasn’t taken place yet so no decision has been made.

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

LIAISON REPORTS

- Planning Commission Liaison (Martin Martinez) - None
- School Board Liaison (Dr. Elizabeth Warner) - None

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

- Vincent Applewhite
Asked about loss of previous baseball fields and wanted to know if we were granted a replacement. Other commission members mentioned that the fields @ Duff were wanted by Bevere for Nature Center
- Jay Rucker
Attended the Willowmere Playground dedication and praised how great it looked

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Brion Southall)

- P&R is working to get ADA trails soon @ Willowmere Playground. Board has been supportive overall of introduction of inclusive playgrounds and have already approved over \$370k for the playgrounds
- Successful State Gymnastics meet @ Expo Center with 811 athletes competing
- Asked Planning Commission Liaison, Martin Martinez to look out for zoning re-classification for Staffordshire to have 18-hole golf course. They are requesting a change in proffer to remove golf course requirement to dedicate 46.7 acres to P&R. Location would be on lower part of Abel Lake

- The Stafford Christmas Tree Lighting was held on 12/8/23 with fireworks, crowd, kids; estimated 1800-2200 people came and enjoyed the event
- As of January, Youth Basketball had 719 kids registered
- A job offer was made for a Therapeutic Recreation position
- Annual St. Patty's Day Soccer Tournament will be held for two weekends this year, using all synthetic fields in the County, include school fields
- Tourism is working on Virginia's 250th birthday; the BOS approved an ordinance for a committee to be established for this purpose; the committee is working with the Kenmore/Ferry Farm Foundation

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

:cdg