

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, July 18, 2024

The Stafford County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, July 18, 2024, at The George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Eric Futrell.

SILENT ROLL CALL

Matthew Cavalier – Present, Reported
Stephanie DeMarco – Present, Reported
Eric Futrell – Present, Reported
Vince Applewhite – Present, Not Reported
Christopher (CW) Reed – Present, Reported
Jay Rucker – Absent, Reported
James Tully – Absent, Reported
Martin Martinez, PC – Present, Reported
Dr. Elizabeth Warner, SB – Absent, Not Reported
Voting members in bold

Guests: Al Watkins

Minutes – Approved unanimously

Public Comments – Mr. Al Watkins provided the Commission with a brief overview of Belmont Park and stated his desire to use the property for recreational purposes. He also petitioned the commission to speak with each of their individual BOS member in hopes of getting a Belmont Park discussion added to the agenda at upcoming Board meetings.

Unfinished Business

- Autumn Ridge Tennis Courts (Brion Southall): Mr. Southall has kept in contact with the Planning Commission and has expressed interest to Supervisor Dr. Yeung with the County accepting this property. The Autumn Ridge HOA must vote on the transfer of the property to the County; a two-thirds majority vote in favor of the property transfer is required. The County is awaiting the HOA's action regarding the property before action can be taken.
- New Business
 - Park Districts: A newly updated list of the major P&R facilities and parks was distributed to commission members, given the recent change to electoral lines in the county.
 - Falmouth Beach Parking: Eric Futrell informed meeting attendees that a resident reached out to him regarding the ongoing issue of congestion along the roads near HPOF. Parks & Rec is still currently charging \$25 per car for non-residents who attend HPOF on weekends and holidays, but this hasn't dissuaded visitors from coming to the river. Park staff have mentioned to Brion Southall that Sgt. Curtis has patrolled the area more frequently this year due to the uptick in visitors @ HPOF. Supervisor English has also put HPOF discussion on the agenda at the August BOS meeting.

- Belmont Park – Vince Applewhite wanted to discuss the topic further and the commission allowed Al Watkins to talk more about Belmont Park plans. Mr. Cavalier suggested that Mr. Watkins considered forming a subcommittee with members from other departments. The Commission offered to put this topic on August's agenda as "new business" to allow Mr. Watkins more time to talk about Belmont Park and give an official presentation.

Liaison Reports

- Planning – Martin Martinez mentioned that there's a Planning Commission meeting on July 24th where they will discuss the Stafford Technology Campus. A review will take place to see whether or not they will allow a zoning permit to build a Data Center in Falmouth as there are many concerns from residents and commission members that need to be addressed before moving forward with these plans. There is also a Conditional Use Permit up for discussion at the July 24th meeting as well for Vulcan Industries in the George Washington District. Per Brion Southall's request, Mr. Martinez also sought information from P&Z about the Staffordshire reclassification, but no discussion of this has been scheduled for any upcoming P&Z Commission meetings.
- Schools – None

Commission Member Comments: Everyone thanked the P&R staff for their hard work and Mr. Watkins for coming and speaking at the meeting. They are all looking forward to the August 15th Commission meeting.

Director's Report – Brion Southall

- P&R received Mt. View Dog Park permits from P&Z at the end of June
- SBL Tournament took place @ Chichester earlier this month
- There is a ribbon cutting for Aquia Landing playground on July 27
- Musselman Park is now totally funded
- Board approved master plan for permits to use remaining 11 acres @ Mt. View
- P&R has money for 2 tennis courts @ Pratt Park to be changed into pickleball courts
- Board approved a fee study for FY '26 budget
- Duff Park will get a new playground
- P&R is expanding the total number of AED's across all of our parks

Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm

:cdg

Minutes approved 8/15/24.