

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 21, 2024

The Stafford County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, November 21, 2024, at The George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Jay Rucker.

SILENT ROLL CALL

	Absent			
<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Reported</u>	<u>Not Reported</u>	
Vincent Applewhite			A	<u>Staff</u> Brion Southall
Matthew Cavalier	p			Robert Wild
Stephanie DeMarco			A	Joanie DeShazo
Eric Futrell	p			
Christopher (CW) Reed	p			
Jay Rucker	p			
James Tully			A	
<i>Martin Martinez, PC</i>			A	
<i>Dr. Elizabeth Warner, SB</i>			A	
Voting members in bold				

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes from the October meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Autumn Ridge Tennis Courts {Brion Southall}
The Homeowners' Association is still in the process of obtaining signatures in favor of donating the tennis courts and associated property to the County

NEW BUSINESS

- Route 17 Property {C.W. Reed}
A motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to enter a private/public partnership to building a multi use gymnastics facility on the five acres Supervisor Diggs was able to get proffered to the county off of route 17 was made. Eric Futrell seconded the motion. C.W. commented, with the limitations of the current facility, safety concerns and the lease up for renewal, this would be a great time for this to happen. Having this go forward should be a priority. Right now, 5 acres is proffered to the county, but there is potential to grow in the future. Brion stated that storm water retention and roads would be built for the proposed site. Abigail Reed provided her thoughts. As a current member at the gymnastics center she sees that it is too small for what is needed and safety, especially at night, is a concern. A motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to pursue a private/public partnership to building a multi use gymnastics complex on the five acres proffered to the county was approved.
- New Department Website {Brion Southall}
Brion turned the floor over to Joanie DeShazo, marketing manager for Parks and Recreation to present the new department website. Rambletype was hired on to create/build a new user friendly website. This new site will allow the public to find classes/events that fits their interests, and allow them to register for

them in a more streamlined manner. Different groups/departments have been given their own pages (ie, gymnastics, aquatics, 55+, sports, camps, etc) to showcase our offerings and make them easier to navigate. Having an events calendar page will allow the public to see all upcoming events. A major highlight is the interactive map, showcasing our parks and what amenities they have. Another addition is a page where visitors can request room and park rentals. The new site is not live yet, but will be soon, date TBD.

LIAISON REPORTS

- Planning Commission Liaison (Martin Martinez): *NIA*
- School Board Liaison (Dr. Elizabeth Warner): *NIA*

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

- Matt Cavalier
 - Very appreciative of the support from Supervisor Diggs regarding the push for a new gymnastics center
- C. W. Reed
 - Seconded the appreciation for Supervisor Diggs
 - Congratulated Brion on his upcoming retirement
 - Staff reports look great
 - Barrels are in place at the gymnastic center's parking lot
- Eric Futrell
 - Looking forward to moving forward regarding the gymnastics center
 - Thanked Brion for all he has done for the County
- Jay Rucker
 - Also congratulated Brion on his retirement
 - Received an email regarding the December 3rd BACC meeting
 - Ask if the December commission meeting was necessary or if it could be cancelled. After discussion, unless something comes up, it will be cancelled

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Brion Southall)

- Department changes
 - Mike Morris' final day with the county was November 8th. They will be looking for this replacement soon.
 - Brion has put in notice of his retirement for January 28th, 2025. His position is currently accepting applications.
 - The County Administrator is separating Community Facilities into its own department, with Parks, Recreation and Tourism staying together.
- Brook's Park Skateboard Park
 - Moving forward, on track for mid-December completion
 - Ribbon Cutting expected sometime in January
- Swim Leagues
 - Wait lists have been greatly reduced
- Mountain View Dog Park
 - Work has started
- CCC Gym Floor
 - Work has completed
 - New bleachers have also been installed
- Pratt Park
 - Work has started on the agility course and exercise stations. Once completed, work will transition to Duff Park. Estimated completed is end of December
- Tree Lighting Event
 - December 6th, 2024 at 6pm
 - 30 vendors, 11 food trucks, bounce houses, and Santa

- o Trolley from commuter lot to Admin building, for parking.
- Curtis Park
 - o Forwarded concerns regarding leaves on trails at Curtis Park to staff.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

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