

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 16, 2025

The Stafford County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, January 16, 2025, at The George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Brion Southall.

SILENT ROLL CALL

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>		<u>Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>
		<u>Reported</u>	<u>Not Reported</u>		
Vincent Applewhite	P			Brion Southall	Abigail Reed
Matthew Cavalier	P			Robert Wild	
Stephanie DeMarco	P			Chris Edwards	
Eric Futrell	P				
Christopher (CW) Reed	P				
Jay Rucker	P				
<i>Martin Martinez, PC</i>			A		
<i>Dr. Susan Randall, SB</i>	P				
Voting members in bold					

ORGANIZATION

- Chairman Election
Jay Rucker was unanimously elected as Chair
- Vice Chairman Election
Eric Futrell was unanimously elected as Vice Chair
- Review/Revise Bylaws
There were no changes to the Bylaws

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes from the November 21, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Abigail Reed commented about the upcoming Gymnastics meet schedule. They have seven coming up in the coming weeks. Good luck to all the participants.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Autumn Ridge Tennis Courts {Brion Southall}
The Homeowners' Association has obtained all signatures required for donating the tennis courts and associated property to the County. The letter has been submitted to the County Administrator and it will be on the agenda for the February Board of Supervisors Meeting.
- Route 17 Property {C.W. Reed}
The motion to move forward has been submitted to the Board, and copied to the CIP. The Commission would like to see this move forward as soon as possible. Brion injected that the citizens ultimately decide how quickly a project on the CIP gets funded. A new Gymnastics Center has been on the CIP for a while,

thus it will be updated with this proposed partnership. Stephanie asked if there is anything that can be done while waiting on funding. Brion said that Budget and Finance can run projections regarding revenue, property values, etc to show the financial benefits of the project. Once it gets to the Board, public comments will be the most important thing to get the project funded.

NEW BUSINESS

- Search for Brion's Replacement {Brion Southall}

The County hired Baker Tilly for recruitment and 9 candidates were selected. Out of those 9, 5 were interviewed. Brion was a part of those interviews. After this first round of interviews, there will be two additional rounds, with mid-March the projection of when a selection will be made. The final round of interviews will be with the County Administrator. All of the candidates are from outside the county, but inside Virginia. Brion's last date is January 28th. Chris Edwards will be Acting Director until a replacement is chosen.

LIAISON REPORTS

- Planning Commission Liaison (Martin Martinez): *NIA*
- School Board Liaison (Dr. Susan Randall): *Dr. Daniel W. Smith is the new Superintendent. He is making Community Connections a priority. He held his first one on January 20th. He will be presenting his budget on January 28th, and work on that budget starts on February 4th. There is a breakfast on January 24th to discuss the CIP. Currently the building of 3 new schools is on time and under budget. Susan visited schools in Maryland during the design phase of these schools. One goal is to keep the option of having these be multi school plots available. Susan asked for Brion's input of what he would like to see incorporated in these designs. Brion said he would touch base with his team and email over their ideas. He suggested restrooms with outdoor access. Also to make sure the gyms are proper size. Also, if the gym can be locked down or separated from access to the rest of the school.*

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

- Matt Cavalier
 - Excited for another year on the Commission.
 - Thank you, Brion, for your years of service and enjoy retirement.
- Vince Applewhite
 - Echoes the well wished for Brion.
 - Great job with the snow removal from the storms that hit the area.
- Stephanie DeMarco
 - Thank you for everything, Brion
- C. W. Reed
 - Good luck to the Royals on January 25th at 7:30am at College Park, MD.
 - Congratulated Brion on his upcoming retirement
 - Great to see so many activities for the Parks and Rec programs, especially Gymnastics
- Eric Futrell
 - Thank you, Brion, for your decades of services to Stafford County. Let us know how retirement is.
- Jay Rucker
 - Also congratulated Brion on his retirement, you will be missed. Don't forget we have some great 55+ programs.
 - Welcome back, Susan, to the Commission.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Brion Southall)

- Mountain View Dog Park
 - Still moving forward, but has been slowed due to the weather.
- Brook's Park Skate Park
 - About 90% of the way there, but ran out of coloring for the concrete. They are 8 yards short.
- Pratt Park

- o Wanted to have a ribbon cutting for the new Agility Park, but has been pushed back due to the weather.
- Make-A-Wish Gymnastics Tournament
 - o Hosted by the parents' group, in Fredericksburg.
 - o Besides money for Make-A-Wish, it also helps provide funding for travel expenses for the coaches to gymnastics tournaments.
 - o Hopefully with a possible new gymnastics center this can be hosted in Stafford some day soon.
- Tourism
 - o Tourism hired a consultant to look at sports tourism for Stafford County. They will look at what tournaments would be good fits for the county to host, along with what changes could be made to our facilities to help increase tourism. There will be a meeting January 23rd to review their findings.
- Chichester Park
 - o Will host the 2026 10 year olds World Series, with Stafford Baseball League.
 - o Also in 2027 will host the Babe Ruth World Series for 9 year olds
- Chris Edwards
 - o He will be taking over Mike Morse's role with the County.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.

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