

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 20, 2025

The Stafford County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, March 20, 2025, at The George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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			Eugene Loew	
Matthew Cavalier			A	Judy Sokolowski	
Stephanie DeMarco	P				
Eric Futrell	P				
Christopher (CW) Reed	P				
Jay Rucker	P				
<i>Kecia Evans, PC</i>		<i>A</i>			
<i>Susan Randall, SB</i>		<i>A</i>			
Voting members in bold					

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes from the February 20, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- New Gymnastics Facility (*C. W. Reed*)
No updates to report. (Future title to be “New Recreation Facility”)

NEW BUSINESS

- Jay Rucker announced Judy Sokolowski will be retiring next week and thanked her for her 35 years of service.

LIAISON REPORTS

- Planning Commission Liaison (Kecia Evans) – N/A
- School Board Liaison (Susan Randall) – N/A

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (*Eugene Loew*)

- Making goals for himself as Director, the department, department divisions, and individuals
- Learning what we are doing, how much it costs
- Asked Commission to advise if they have goals/suggestions
- National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and Virginia Recreation and Parks

Society (VRPS) are national and state parks and recreational organizations that offer training and support; Mr. Loew will attend the annual NRPA Conference in September/October and said he would work with County Administration to fund the trip/conference for Commission members if they would like to attend

- Duff Park playground is awaiting the resolution to a utility line issue before opening; Mr. Loew will check on the progress, advise the Commission, and put the information on social media for the public

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

- Stephanie DeMarco
 - Autumn Ridge HOA voted to amend the proffer for the tennis courts and property adjacent to Autumn Ridge Park; however, the Board of Supervisors denied the proffer amendment
 - Jay Rucker suggested members contact their Board member and ask why they voted to deny the amended proffer. Question: Could Autumn Ridge HOA swap their property for County property next to H. H. Poole Middle School near the power lines?
- Vincent Applewhite
 - Welcomed Eugene Loew as the new Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism
 - Thanked Judy Sokolowski for her service and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement
- C. W. Reed
 - Congratulated Judy Sokolowski on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for her service
 - Will attend a gymnastics meet in Williamsburg on Saturday
- Eric Futrell
 - Attended and helped distribute pins to the winners of the Red Fines Sportsmanship Awards last Thursday
 - Thanked Judy Sokolowski for her service
 - Expressed appreciation to park staff and all their hard work
- Jay Rucker
 - Thanked Judy Sokolowski for her hard work and service
 - Asked Mr. Loew to let the Commission know how they can help the department and communicate with their respective Board members

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

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