



**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA
April 17, 2025**

**George L. Gordon, Jr., Government Center
1300 Courthouse Road
Conference Room 275 (2nd Floor)**

Call to Order (Room B)	7:00 pm
Silent Roll Call	7:00 pm
Approval of Minutes • March 20, 2025	7:01 pm
Public Comments (3 minutes each)	7:05 pm
Unfinished Business • New Recreation Center	7:15 pm
New Business	7:20 pm
Liaison Reports • Planning Commission Liaison • School Board Liaison	7:35 pm
Director's Report	7:40 pm
Commission Member Comments	7:50 pm
Adjournment	8:00 pm

**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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March 2025 Staff Report
For April 17, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Community Recreation, 55+ Active Adults, & Aquatics

- Events Held
 - 55+ Bingo
 - 55+ Bunco
 - 55+ Card Sharks
 - 55+ Monthly Book Club
 - 55+ No Fall Aikido
 - 55+ Senior Lounge
 - 55+ Tuesday Movies
 - 55+ Weekly Lunches
 - Acrylic Dot Art Painting on Rocks, Pendant
 - Adult/Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED
 - Sculpture: Air Dry Clay Animal Magnets (55+)
 - 55+ Fit 4 Life
 - Fitness Fusion
 - Gym Walking
 - New River Dance: Beginner Ballet/Tap, Jazz/Tap, Pointe, Intermed/Adv Ballet, Teen/Adult Ballet
 - Open Art Studio
 - Polymer Clay Herb & Vegetable Garden Markers
 - Slow Stitch
 - Sports Club
 - Wreath Making
 - Spring Bead & Flower Wreath 2025
 - Yoga/Pilates
 - Zumba/Adapted Zumba
 - Zumba-Evening at Gymnastics Center

Gymnastics

- Events Held
 - 14 Birthday parties
 - 12 Tot Open Gym Sessions
 - Session #7 of gymnastics school age classes 2/17-3/15
 - Session #7 of gymnastics preschool classes 2/17-3/15
 - Session #7 of Ninja Classes 2/17-3/15
 - Session #8 of gymnastics school age classes 3/17-4/12
 - Session #8 of gymnastics preschool classes 3/17-4/12
 - Session #8 of Ninja Classes 3/17-4/12
 - Ninja Free Play 3/27
 - Royals Team and Pre-Team Tryouts 3/16
 - Leakpin' Leprechaun's Preschool party was held 3/13
 - I heart Gymnastics Preschool party 2/13
 - Hosted two weekly Community Recreation Fitness classes: Zumba and Pilates
 - New River Dance Studio classes are scheduled weekly
 - Competitive Team Women and Men's monthly practice
 - Women's competitive team competed in Springfield, Hampton, Christiansburg and Williamsburg, VA
 - Men's competitive team competed in Lynchburg, VA
 - Front lobby renovations at the Gymnastics Center have started

- Upcoming
 - 12 Birthday Parties are scheduled
 - 12 Tot Open Gym Sessions are scheduled
 - Session #8 of gymnastics school age classes 3/17-4/12
 - Session #8 of gymnastics preschool classes 3/17-4/12
 - Session #8 of Ninja Classes 3/17-4/12
 - Session #9 of gymnastics school age classes 4/13-5/10
 - Session #9 of gymnastics preschool classes 4/13-5/10
 - Session #9 of Ninja Classes 4/13-5/10
 - Ninja Senior Open Workout is scheduled for 4/25
 - Ninja Free Play scheduled for 4/18
 - Earth Day Preschool party is scheduled for 4/25
 - Two weekly Community Recreation Fitness classes are scheduled: Zumba, Pilates
 - New River Dance Studio classes are scheduled weekly
 - Competitive Team Women and Men's monthly practice
 - Women's competitive team will compete in Delaware, Virginia Beach, Richmond and Hampton, VA
 - Men's competitive team will compete at Regional Championships in Duluth, GA

Parks

- Brooks Park District
 - Lined soccer fields
 - Assembled new soccer goals and nets
 - Groomed diamond fields
 - Delivered stone dust to skate park
 - Poured concrete to extended parking lot next to skate park
 - Prepared for Fools' Fest at Pratt
- Chichester Park District
 - Maintained park buildings and pavilion
 - Organized Chichester shop
 - Made plumbing repairs
 - Deep cleaned all restrooms
 - Continued planning for summer 2025
- Curtis Park District
 - Painted bathrooms and concessions at Curtis Park Pool
 - Performed plumbing repairs at Curtis Park Pool
 - Assisted Tourism with egg hunt
 - Eastern Bluebird monitoring started
 - Replaced temporary pickle ball net
 - Started to fill Pool and baby pool pumps
 - Painted soccer fields and set up goals
- Duff Park District
 - Duff Park
 - Daily prep of dog parks
 - Cleaned park trails of litter
 - Groomed/maintain baseball fields
 - Trimmed trees; cleared trees/weeds from trails
 - Continued work to improve drainage around storage area
 - Cut/lined soccer fields

- Aerated baseball field 2
 - Worked on straightening trails for safety
- Aquia Landing
 - Litter control
 - Cleaned/maintained restrooms
 - Laid out/maintained parking area/spaces.
 - Cleaned the road
 - Daily playground maintenance
 - Fixed Fence around septic area
 - Tilled beach and cleaned up debris from storms
- Little Falls
 - Litter control
 - Removed unwanted signs
 - Continued working on new front gate
 - Trimmed trees along fence and roadside
- Civil War Park
 - Litter control
 - Cleaned restrooms
 - Blew leaves off trails, roadway, roadside
 - Maintained Rock area
 - Wiped down signs of bird droppings
- The RRJ detainees are working 5 days a week to cut/clean/trim County gateways on Rts. 3, 630, & 610
- Embrey Mill Park District
 - Picked up trash at park and outside sites
 - Kaivac bathrooms
 - Prepared mowers for new season
 - Moved goals into place for new season
 - Turned on water at Woodlands Pool
 - Started grooming ballfields
 - Removed fallen tree
- Smith Lake Park District
 - Government Island bridge repairs
 - Reseeded and rolled turf
 - Groomed and maintained synthetic fields
 - Held St Patty's soccer tournament
 - Cut and removed trees downed at Patawomeck Park
- Willowmere Park District
 - Started soccer field layouts and set up goals and nets
 - Replaced spikes on ABI machine
 - Installed catch basin at playground French drain
 - Laid new sod at playground
 - Removed a fallen tree
 - Areate and seed bare spots at playgrounds
 - Fill in ruts at GEMS
 - Line baseball fields