

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Monday, July 20, 2026

The Stafford County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission held its regular monthly meeting Monday, July 20, 2026, at The Rowser Annex. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Jay Rucker.

Silent Roll Call					
Members			Present	Absent Reported	Absent Not Reported
Jay Rucker	Rock Hill	Voter	X		
Christopher (CW) Reed	Hartwood	Voter		X	
Stephanie DeMarco	Garrisonville	Voter		X	
Jennifer Stone	Widewater	Voter		X	
Katherine Schneider	G. Washington	Voter	X		
Charnell Cassett	Falmouth	Voter	X		
Said Hashemi	Aquia	Voter	X		
Kelsey Caudill	Planning	Non-Voter		X	
Susan Randall	School Board	Non-Voter	X		
Patrick Workman	Director, Parks and Rec	Non-Voter	X		
Diane Taylor	Secretary	Non-Voter	X		
Guest					
Joe Brito Eric Atkisson					

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The minutes from Monday, May 18, 2026, meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Joe Brito – Presentation of the Canyon Ridge Golf Course and the 2009 Bond Referendum
- Eric Atkisson – Fiends of Banks’ Ford Battlefield presentation. A retired Army Colonel and resident of Stafford County, has been doing research around the easement at Canon Ridge with a historian and mapping all the Civil War antebellum features out there, sharing them on a Facebook group “Friends of Banks Corp Battlefield”. Believing this intersects with Stafford County plans, there's about 500 feet of U.S. Army infantry trenches that they missed in the '90s which exists along the route that the Sixth Corps retreated along one of the two routes during the Battle of Chancellorsville. Would love to be of help with any future plans.
- Lara Brittain (statement, read by Mrs. Randall); I live immediately across from Autumn Ridge Park. The park is absolutely wonderful, and it is greatly enjoyed. I remember moving in 1999 and thinking how exciting it would be when the park was completed. It has been a wonderful neighborhood gathering place that strengthens our sense of community and connection. The biggest concern I have is the very real threat of the GIANT power lines going in. I moved here, it was not disclosed that Virginia Power (now Dominion) had an easement from 1965. We only learned about it later in the early 2000’s, and we organized, demanded, and were successful that the lines were buried. Now we face an even bigger threat to our parks and way of life. The statistics are clear, and our beloved Park and the surrounding ecology are at great risk. Please do all that you can to insist that these new power lines be relocated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Patrick Workman; Parks and Recreation Bylaw amendments are under review with the County Attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

- Patrick Workman; Stafford Baseball Leagues MOU expires in November and is under review.
- Patrick Workman; Fees Revision Presentation. An overview of the department's proposed fee philosophy was presented. The department recently completed a cost recovery study conducted by an outside consultant, which recommended a more structured approach to fee setting consistent with industry best practices. The proposed philosophy is intended to provide a fair, consistent, and transparent framework for establishing program fees while balancing community benefit, equity, and financial sustainability. The proposed tiered fee structure would categorize programs based on their primary purpose, community benefit, and targeted level of cost recovery, providing greater consistency in how program fees are established while recognizing that different types of programs serve different community needs. The committee discussed the proposed methodology and its application across various program offerings.

-Jay Rucker suggested that the program fees be rounded to the nearest whole dollar, not to list fees with cents.

-Charnell Cassett; Motion to approve presenting this program pricing philosophy and tier vision plan with updated numbers to account for rounding up and rounding down to the Board of Supervisors at their next meeting, second the Motion by Jay Rucker, (3) Ayes (1) Nay, Motion approved.

LIAISON REPORTS

School Board Liaison; Susan Randall – Noted next week new teachers to be introduced to Stafford County. The following week teachers are back to work. Request everyone to pack their patients when it comes to transportation for the first couple weeks. State budget approval delays are a challenge, but we were able to give raises to groups and to keep our retention of teachers. Schools are adding 2 new elementary schools, and a 3rd projected in 2 years.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Patrick Workman informed the committee that a Fourth of July after-action meeting was held, including discussion of the canceled fireworks event and considerations moving forward. The League World Series, August 6th, will be opening ceremonies at Embrey Mill, 6 p.m. Chairman Diggs will give some opening remarks, a parade with full teams, and some food trucks. Parks is continuing to monitor the Dominion North Anna to Brister's project. The needs assessment public survey will be released in the next few weeks. Supervisor English mentioned the adoptive park program, a way for new businesses, like data centers to give money to parks. The department is researching different models and options, also exploring a 3rd party nonprofit park foundation.

COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENTS

- Katherine Schneider - Excited to go to the fireworks, but unfortunately the show didn't happen due to weather.
- Jay Rucker - Welcomed Said Hashemi. Thanked everyone for being there.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.