

Augusta County Government Center
Main Board Room, Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Present: Larry Curry, Sally Williams, Steve Bridge, Anne Gordon

Absent: Samantha Bosserman, Ernie Landes, Leon Bartley

Chairperson Gordon welcomed those present at the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

2. Comments by the Public

No public present.

3. Adoption of Minutes

No amendments or comments regarding the April minutes.

Parks and Recreation Commission member Bridge moved, seconded by Parks and Recreation Commission member Williams, to approve the April minutes.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Larry Curry, Sally Williams, Steve Bridge, Anne Gordon
 Nays: None

Motion Passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

No questions regarding the Treasurer's report.

5. Director's Report

Chairperson Gordon asked for more information about the tennis camp partnership. Mr. Wells explained the SAW tennis program was looking to get more exposure and inquired about Parks and Recreation promoting the program through our advertising. After meeting with the group, a partnership was formed where Parks and Recreation would handle the administrative tasks of the camp while the SAW volunteers and program coordinators teach and organize the camps. Chairperson Gordon inquired if the programs were in the Parks and Recreation Summer Guide. Mr. Wells informed the Commission that the camps were advertised in our summer guide.

Commission member Bridge asked for more information about the Backcountry Navigation Clinic. Mr. Wells stated this program teaches individuals to learn navigation through using a compass, orientation, and maps. This class is taught by Lester Zook of Wild GUYde Adventures, LLC.

6. Matters to be presented by the Commission

Commission member Bridge asked if there were any updates regarding pickleball courts

at Stuarts Draft Park. Mr. Wells informed him he had met with Board of Supervisor member Bragg recently to look into some more options for funding. Commission member Bridge informed the Commission that he had driven by the Sherando/Lyndhurst Ruritan Hall property recently and someone had mowed the grass of the back ballfields. He stated the field is a good size and looked really good. He asked if Mr. Wells if he knew who had mowed the grass and why. Mr. Wells stated he is not sure who mowed it or why. He stated possibly a local group had approached the Ruritans about using the field and in return they would take care of the maintenance, but that was just a guess.

Commission member Bridge informed the Commission that he would like Commission members to begin talking with their district Board of Supervisor members to discuss allowing Parks and Recreation to keep a percentage of any budget surplus annually to allow for future improvements to the County's parks and facilities. Mr. Wells stated he could add this discussion to the June agenda if Commission members are interested in pursuing it. The consensus of present members was to add it to the agenda.

Commission member Curry asked for an update on the New Hope Community Center ballfield improvements. Chairperson Gordon stated the project is not completed.

Commission member Curry asked for an update on the Mt. Sidney playground. Mr. Wells stated the ribbon cutting is next week, May 31, for the new playground.

Commission member Curry asked to pass on his thanks to our department for the trip to the International Tattoo in Norfolk. He said it was a wonderful trip featuring military bands from all over the world.

7. Matters to be presented by Staff

1. Presentation of "South End" concepts

Mr. Wells explained the concept plans for developing the south end parking lot into a recreation area with multipurpose fields and indoor gym space. He stated he will add a discussion about the plans to the June agenda, so Commission members have time to gather their thoughts and questions. Commission members asked some questions about the specifics of indoor track size and location in the concept plans.

2. DRAFT document of Comprehensive Plan for Commission Review and Feedback

Commissioner member Bridge asked what the next steps are for the comprehensive plan. Mr. Wells stated it would go to the Board of Supervisors, and to the public for additional feedback. He stated the plan does not mean that everything contained in it will happen. He said if something is not in the comprehensive plan, however, it is harder to get that item completed in regards to resource allocation and Board approval.

Commission member Bridge asked if a Recreation Center was part of the plan. Mr. Wells stated he thinks it is located in the task section of the plan but will double-check and let the Commission know. Commissioner member Bridge asked what the timeframe was for the plan. Mr. Wells says he expects the plan to be on the agenda for the end of June or early July for the Board of Supervisors. After that, it has to be open to public feedback for a lengthy period of time (30 plus days). It should be finalized around the

October timeframe.

8. Old Business

No Old Business.

9. New Business

Commissioner member Williams updated the Commission on the status of the old Riverheads Elementary school. She said the only buildings still standing are the cafeteria, library pods, and the gym. Augusta County Schools have proposed adding ball fields and a picnic area where the old school used to be. Mr. Wells asked if the gym or cafeteria area had been used since the demolition. Commission member Williams stated she believes there were wrestling competitions held there in the fall, so maybe some use but very little.

10. Announcement of Next Meeting & Adjournment

Chairperson Gordon announced the next meeting would be held on June 18th at 7pm in the main boardroom of the Government Center.

Parks and Recreation Commission member Curry moved, seconded by Parks and Recreation Commission member Williams, to Adjourn.

Vote was as follows: Yeas: Larry Curry, Sally Williams, Steve Bridge, Anne Gordon
 Nays: None

Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.