

Augusta County Government Center

Parks and Recreation Conference Room, Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order

Present: Larry Curry, Sally Williams, Samantha Bosserman, Ernie Landes, Leon Bartley, Steve Bridge, Anne Gordon

Absent:

Chairperson Gordon welcomed those present at the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm.

2. Comments by the Public

Members of Share the Air were present via zoom. Presenters were Preston Taylor from Liberty High School and Cade Bowen of Fort Defiance High School. Tabitha Magbet, Coordinator for Y Street and Share the Air was also available through zoom for any questions the Commission may have.

1. Presentation from "Share the Air"

Preston Taylor and Cade Bowen gave a presentation explaining the program and why they feel our county could benefit from joining the program.

Chairperson Gordon explained to the group that the Commission would have to discuss at a later date if a recommendation would be made to the Board of Supervisors. She asked if the group would be willing to present the program to the Board of Supervisors if that was requested. They stated they would present, if asked. Mr. Wells asked how the program got started. Ms. Magbet explained the program began as a way to make high school campuses tobacco free. After success with that program over 4 years, the idea to move the focus to outdoor spaces began to form, which is how Share the Air came about. Chairperson Gordon asked if there had been any negative reactions from communities that have adopted this program in their parks. Ms. Magbet stated there has been some push back in some communities. She said some people feel this program isn't a top priority. That said, she stated they do get positive feedback as well. She said they encourage feedback of all kinds to help the program grow. She said the group isn't anti-smoking, it's more about bringing awareness to encourage others to respect everyone, especially kids, who can be affected by their choices. She said the signs generally do the talking for anyone overseeing the outdoor space. Mr. Wells informed the Commission that the Board of Supervisors cannot change the code for smoking enforcement in outdoor parks and spaces, that would be dealt with at a state level. Chairperson Gordon asked Ms. Magbet if the signs could be changed to make the wording less aggressive. Ms. Magbet said the signs could be changed. Chairperson Gordon stated the Commission would add a formal discussion to an upcoming meetings agenda.

3. Adoption of Minutes

1. August Parks and Recreation minutes for approval.

No amendments or comments regarding the August minutes.

Parks and Recreation Commission member Bridge moved, seconded by Parks and Recreation Commission member Bosserman, to approve the August 2025 minutes

Vote was as follows:

Yeas:	Larry Curry, Sally Williams, Samantha Bosserman, Ernie Landes, Leon Bartley, Steve Bridge, Anne Gordon
Nays:	None

Motion Passed.

4. Treasurer's Report

1. September Treasurer's report

Mr. Wells presented the Treasurer's report. He stated this was the second-highest revenue recorded ever in July. He stated the highest month of July to date was back in 2019. Chairperson Gordon asked what specifically caused the revenue to be higher now. Mr. Wells said he feels we are finally completely recovered from COVID. He informed the Commission that Lauren Jacobsen, our Programs Coordinator, does an excellent job choosing trips that interest the community. He also said July was a good month for our pools with the weather being favorable to the pools being open.

5. Director's Report

1. September Director's report

Mr. Wells presented the Director's report. Commission member Bosserman inquired whether Augusta County Tourism/ Economic Development was involved with the Grindstone running event taking place at the Natural Chimneys Park this September. Mr. Wells said they are involved and have made a push to advertise Augusta County hotels and restaurants. Commission member Landes inquired how the North River Elementary/ Craigsville Elementary Soccer program was going. Mr. Wells said he is unsure but will reach out to see if he can find out.

6. Matters to be presented by the Commission

Commission member Landes asked if there was an update on the South End development. Mr. Wells stated Balzer and Associates are still working on construction estimates based on the larger elements. Mr. Wells hopes to have an update at the October Commission meeting.

7. Matters to be presented by Staff

Mr. Wells updated the Commission that the Weyers Cave Recreation Association Matching Grant was approved in full by the Board of Supervisors. He informed the Commission that staff is working with EGS and Associates on the site plan for Stuarts

Draft pickleball courts. He said plans should be with the department soon with several options to choose from. Chairperson Gordon asked if the neighbors of Stuarts Draft Park have been informed. Mr. Wells said they have been made aware. Chairperson Gordon asked how much space there is from the edge to the fence on the court as that has been an issue at other courts in the area. Mr. Wells said the plan calls for 10 feet from the edge of the court to the fencing.

8. Old Business

No Old Business to discuss.

9. New Business

No New Business to discuss.

10. Announcement of Next Meeting & Adjournment

Chairperson Gordon announced the next meeting would be held on October 15 at 7pm in the Main Boardroom of the Government Center.

Parks and Recreation Commission member Curry moved, seconded by Parks and Recreation Commission member Bartley, to adjourn.

Vote was as follows:	Yeas:	Larry Curry, Sally Williams, Samantha Bosserman, Ernie Landes, Leon Bartley, Steve Bridge, Anne Gordon
	Nays:	None

Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.