

MINUTES

Parks and Recreation Commission of the Augusta County Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Larry Curry, Vice Chair
Anne Gordon, Member
Sally Williams, Member
Leon Bartley, Member
Ernie Landes, Member
Kirk Barley, Member
Samantha Bosserman, Chair

ABSENT: None

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Bosserman called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. Comments by the Public

No comments by the public.

3. Adoption of Minutes

No questions or comments on the September 2023 minutes.

3.1 September minutes for approval

[draft.September 2023 minutes.pdf](#)

Larry Curry moved to approve September 2023 minutes.

Kirk Barley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 October Treasurer's report

Mr. Wells presented the Treasurer's report as written.

No questions or comments about the Treasurer's report.

[2023 OCTOBER Treasurers report.pdf](#)

5. Director's Report

5.1 October Director's report

Mr. Wells highlighted the Director's report.

Mrs. Gordon asked if local retirement communities are aware of the Senior Health Fair. If so, do they bring residents in bus loads? Mr. Wells stated some do and some are actually vendors or sponsors of the event. We advertise the event in many ways to get the word out and use the sponsor money for advertising, door prizes, and free food for both vendors and participants.

Mrs. Gordon asked if there is any sunk cost to the trips and programs that are not successful. Mr. Wells stated the only cost associated with those would be staff time to plan and organize.

[October 2023 DIR's report.pdf](#)

6. Matters to be presented by the Commission

No Matters to be Presented by the Commission.

7. Matters to be presented by Staff

Mr. Wells informed the Commission about an email he sent regarding upcoming Virginia State Trails forums. Virginia Department of Transportation, VDOT, is looking for citizen input as they work through the planning process for this project. VDOT will hold 3 forums in the next few weeks and currently has a survey available on the website to offer opportunities for citizens give their thoughts and opinions. The County's Communications Manager, Mia Kivlighan, was informed of the forums and will share that information with citizens.

Also, Mr. Wells shared that the County has a splash page dedicated to the Comprehensive Plan to provide information regarding the plan. The County has an email notification system which allows citizens can sign up to receive information about County meetings, forums, town halls, and other various happenings in the County.

8. Old Business

Mr. K Barley inquired with Mr. Wells about whether the County was informed of the proposed National Forest Recreation fee increase that was discussed at the last meeting. Mr. Wells stated he spoke with the Communications Manager, Mia Kivlighan, she was not aware and had not received a notification. Mr. K Barley stated he was told the County would receive notification of this. Mr. K Barley would like citizens to have a voice in items such as this. Mr. Wells stated he sent an email to the local Forest Service office to inform them the County had not been notified of the public feedback period. Mr. K Barley stated his plans to attend the Bike Summit being held on October 20th and asked if any other Commission members had plans to attend. No other members plan to attend. He informed them he would be happy to share any of their thoughts or concerns at the meeting should they have any. There was some discussion about possible areas of interest that will be discussed at the meeting on Friday. Mrs. Bosserman asked Mr. K Barley to please let the Commission know if they can assist in any way. Mr. K Barley asked if the Bike Summit report could be added to next month's agenda.

Mrs. Bosserman asked if anyone wanted to update the Commission regarding the New Hope Community Center. Mr. Wells stated County staff have the receipts for the electrical work and will share that with the County Administrator and Board of Supervisors for them to decide possible reimbursement for that work soon. There was some discussion about the procurement process. Mrs. Gordon stated she was unaware of the dollar limit in relation to the number quotes needed for satisfying County procurement guidelines. The

Commission then discussed their thoughts on the renovations requested at the New Hope Community Center and surrounding ballfields as well as the cost effectiveness. Mr. K Barley is concerned about the cost benefit of building outdoor batting cages if the building is in need of greater repairs that may be effected by the placement of the new batting cages. There was further discussion about both the Comprehensive Plan and the issues regarding capital improvements at Parks all coming due at the same time. The Commission voiced a need for community involvement and input as a top priority.

9. New Business

No new business to discuss.

10. Announcement of Next Meeting and Adjournment

Mr. Wells stated if the Commission would like to tour Parks and Recreation's new space before next month's meeting please let him know and he can arrange it.

Mrs. Bosserman announced the next meeting on November 15 at 7pm at the Government Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21pm.

Kirk Barley moved to adjourn .

Larry Curry seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.