

MINUTES

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

Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 7:00 PM

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

ABSENT: Steve Morelli, Member

1. Call to Order

Mr. Curry called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

2. Comments by the

Public No public present.

3. Adoption of Minutes

No corrections or amendments to the May minutes.

3.1 May minutes for approval

[May 2022 minutes.pdf](#)

Samantha Bosserman moved to approve May minutes .

Kirk Barley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

4.1 June Treasurer's Report

The June Treasurer's report was reported as written.

[2022 JUNE Treasurers report.pdf](#)

5. Director's Report

5.1 June Director's Report

Mr. K Barley asked in response to the Director's report if the design for the new office space was completed. Mr. Wells informed him it is complete and accepted. Mr. K Barley asked if public comments about design were included. Mr. Wells stated public comments were not included as design plans are for indoor office space mainly, not outdoor or general recreation space.

Mrs. Bosserman asked if there will be enough room for a conference style area. Mr.

Wells stated it will and we may be able to utilize the new Parks and Recreation

conference room if needed as additional meeting space.

Mr. Wells informed the Commission that staff are having some trouble locking in pricing for the fall guide as companies are unsure of their costs that far in advance which makes pricing those items for our guide difficult. This may be reflected in the Fall guide due out in early September. Mr. K Barley made a suggestion regarding trip pricing. He suggested having a fixed price with a sliding scale, participants could then see the minimum and maximum prices that could be charged. The individual then could opt out of the trip if the final price is higher than what they are willing to pay in the scale.

Mr. Wells stated there has been a lot of interest in our swimming lessons that are being offered. He stated the demand would justify increasing the amount of lessons offered next year, but to do so we may have to shorten the time for open swim. Mr. K Barley asked if Parks and Recreation had ever inquired about partnering with an organization to hold swim lessons at their facility. He stated Augusta Health has a pool which he has observed is not overly crowded. He stated he is only using Augusta Health as an example as there are likely other facilities Parks and Recreation could partner with. Mr. Wells said the department would definitely explore the idea.

[June 2022 DIR's report.pdf](#)

6. Matters to be presented by the Commission

Mr. K Barley inquired if the idea of shade structures at Stuarts Draft Park is still on the table. Mr. Wells answered yes and that he and County Administration met with Balzer and Associates about putting together a proposal including all of the items requested for the Stuarts Draft Park.

Mr. K Barley asked if Mr. Wells was familiar with the Stuarts Draft Small Plan which includes a pedestrian only bridge across the South River that continues parallel to Draft Highway into Stuarts Draft. Mr. Wells stated he should become more familiar with it. Mr. K Barley stated there is a lot in the Stuarts Draft Small Plan regarding recreation and if there were any questions to let him know.

Mrs. Bosserman informed the Commission she is a member of the Facebook group, Friends of the Natural Chimneys. She stated the group posted a thank you to Augusta County Parks and Recreation and Natural Chimneys staff for the continued improvements at Natural Chimneys Park.

7. Matters to be presented by Staff

7.1 Parks and Recreation Capital Improvements Report

Mr. Wells informed the Commission this report will be made public on the main County website as he will share it with the County's Communications Manager. He

stated the Commission has been made aware of all projects in the report. If there are any questions, members can reach out to him or those questions can be inquired about at our next Commission meeting.

8. Old Business

Mr. K Barley inquired about the status of Parks and Recreations By-Laws being accepted by the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Wells stated he has not heard any thing more about the status. An email was sent to the County Attorneys office this week to check the status.

9. New Business

Mr. K Barley asked if Parks and Recreation had looked into wellness pods. He explained he found the idea in the latest issue of the NRPA, Parks and Recreation magazine. Wellness pods are a way to bring services to areas that are not in the main service area. He stated the County has main areas for services and recreation, but most of those areas people have to drive a distance to get to. With the wellness pods the service or recreation can be brought to the citizens.

Mr. K Barley asked if Parks and Recreation had ever looked into Egaming. He stated other areas are providing that type of service and even local colleges and universities have this type of recreation in their facilities. Mrs. Bosserman stated VHSL, Virginia High School League, has recently recognized Egaming as a sport. Mr. K Barley stated though Egaming isn't a sport where you are moving around, it is one for socialization.

Mr. Landes asked about the memorial for Mr. Ritchie. Mr. Wells informed the Commission he is waiting for approval from the Weyers Cave Community Center. They had a meeting earlier this month and it was to be discussed then. Mr. K Barley asked if the money will be used for the story walk. Mr. Wells replied yes. Mr. K Barley asked if the library will be swapping out the stories. Mr. Wells stated they will. Mr. Landes stated he wanted to ask and move things along before too much time passed.

Mr. Curry wanted to recognize the Fort Defiance Girls Varsity softball for their winning season. They finished with a record of 23-1.

10. Announcement of Next Meeting and Adjournment

Mr. Curry announced the next meeting will take place at the Government Center on July 20 at 7pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01pm.

Kirk Barley moved to adjourn .

Ernie Landes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.