

MINUTES

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

Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 7:00 PM

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

ABSENT:

1. Call to Order

Mr. Curry called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Mr. Curry called for a moment of silence for Mr. Ronnie Ritchie. Mr. Wells stated Mr. Ritchie served on this Commission for over two decades. He stated staff at Parks and Recreation have made personal donations in a collection to donate in Mr. Ritchie's name. He stated if the Commission wanted to make personal donations as well we can see that they get to the appropriate place. After some discussion on where the Commission felt the donation would be best served, it was decided Mr. Wells will ask Mr. Ritchie's wife, Carolyn, where she thinks Mr. Ritchie would prefer. If she has no suggestion, the donation in his name will be made to the Weyers Cave Ruritans.

2. Comments by the

Public No public present.

3. Adoption of Minutes

There were no questions or comments about the March minutes.

3.1 March minutes for approval

[March 2022 minutes.pdf](#)

Ernie Landes moved to approve March minutes as written.

Kirk Barley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Wells highlighted the Treasurer's report. He stated the budget for new Fiscal Year 2023 could be approved as early as next week. No questions or comments on the Treasurer's report.

4.1 March Treasurer's Report

[2022 MARCH Treasurers report.pdf](#)

5. Director's Report

Mr. Wells highlighted the Director's report. Mr. Wells reported issues finding staff for summer positions. Mr. K Barley suggested partnering with local colleges. Mr. K Barley stated if we partnered with colleges we should be able to have a continuous stream of staff for summer programs. This would give college students in certain fields experience and would help bridge the gap of finding staff for summer programs.

5.1 March Director's Report

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

6. Matters to be presented by the Commission

Mrs. Bosserman asked why Augusta County Schools cannot apply for the Matching Grant program. Mr. Wells stated the Matching Grant program is to aid private non-profits in providing recreational amenities and programs for County residents. The school system, rather the property where the improvements take place is publicly owned so they do not meet the criteria.

There was a discussion on schools and playground upkeep which led into Mr. Morelli informing Mr. Wells he is ready to move forward updating Stuarts Draft Park. He would like to update the playground and have electric installed at the amphitheater. Mr. Morelli stated he feels we should put money into updating the playground at Stuarts Draft Park rather than spread the money out and do improvements to all of the playgrounds in Stuarts Draft. Mr. Wells informed Mr. Morelli that school children are unable to leave school grounds to use the playground equipment at Stuarts Draft Park as it is a security issue.

Mr. Wells informed the Commission staff are working to determine needs at the park as opposed to wants at this time. He said the needs start with year round restroom access followed by parking and storm water improvements. This can be done in stages but needs to be planned for so as not to negatively impact park use over a long period of time. Mr. K Barley asked if we had shade structures installed at Stuarts Draft Park. Mr. Wells stated the decision to wait was made until some of the other needs were completed.

A discussion among the Commission members took place regarding updating existing parks through the county compared to bringing on an additional park to Verona.

7. Matters to be presented by Staff

There were no Matters to be presented by Staff.

8. Old Business

No old business to discuss.

9. New Business

Mrs. Bosserman asked if Mr. Wells could ask the Board of Supervisors to issue an official proclamation to honor Mr. Ritchie. Mr. K Barley suggested a story walk in the New Hope/ Weyers Cave area to honor Mr. Ritchie. Mrs. Bosserman suggested a bench, too

possibly. Mr. Wells informed the Commission there is a walking trail at the Weyers Cave Community Center as well. Mrs. Williams stated maybe Mr. Ritchie had a favorite children's book that could be used for the story walk. Mr. Wells stated he will carry the suggestion on to the Board of Supervisors.

10. Announcement of Next Meeting and Adjournment

Mr. Curry announced the next meeting will take place here at the Government Center on May 18th at 7pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Kirk Barley moved to adjourn .

Ernie Landes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.