

MINUTES

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

Wednesday, April 17, 2024, 7:00 PM

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

ABSENT: None

1. Call to Order

Mrs. Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

2. Comments by the

Public No public present.

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1 March 2024 minutes for approval

No questions or amendments to the March 2024
minutes. [draft.March 2024 minutes.pdf](#)

Steve Bridge moved to approve March 2024 minutes.

Samantha Bosserman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Bridge asked if Parks and Recreation can spend revenue that is generated that has not been foreseen in the budget. Mr. Wells stated we can if we use the money for programs. The revision process will reflect that revenue. Parks and Recreation is not able to use that revenue for items such as office supplies or non- approved staff positions.

Mrs. Bosserman inquired if Parks and Recreation could use that revenue to add additional vendors to Draft Days. Mr. Wells stated Parks and Recreation has an ample budget for special events, but he is hoping to increase that budget as time goes on and more events are offered. He stated Draft Days doesn't generate much revenue as we only bring in a minimal amount for the food trucks. Mr. Bridge asked what other special events Parks and Recreation offers in addition to Draft Days. Mr. Wells stated Food Truck Wednesdays, Movie Night at Natural Chimneys, Senior Health Fair, at times the Stonewall Brigade Band playing in Parks, and over the holiday season Clark in the Park. He explained two staff members were currently at an event at the Frontier Cultural Museum Center called "Night at the Museum". This is not our event, but our staff often

has a presence at local events if we are invited and have the time. Staff is considering a future movie night event here at the Government Center that would present like a drive in movie.

There was some discussion on Draft Days replacing Sweet Dreams and why. Mrs. Bosserman asked if volunteers would be needed for Draft Days this year. Mr. Wells told her he would have our Special Events staff person, Charley Schillinger, email her.

4.1 April Treasurer's report

[2024 APRIL Treasurers report.pdf](#)

5. **Director's Report**

5.1 April Director's report

Mr. Wells informed the Commission of a new event Parks and Recreation is holding this June 20th. It is called Play All Day VA, PADVA, and is part of a state-wide campaign to get kids outdoors. Parks and Recreation will most likely make this an annual event to coincide with the state-wide initiative.

Mrs. Bosserman asked when the Grindstone event at Natural Chimneys will be held this coming September. Mr. Wells informed her it will be held September 20th through the 22nd.

[April 2024 DIR's report.pdf](#)

6. **Matters to be presented by the Commission**

Mr. Bridge informed the Commission he has talked with several coaches and community members that expressed their concerns for the future of Schneider Park. They are concerned about losing a ballfield at the park to make room for a pickleball court. He asked if the Ruritans could pursue a Matching Grant to find a different location in the park to add the pickleball court. Mr. Wells stated they can. He stated the Ruritans have been awarded Matching Grants for many projects at Schneider Park in the past. Mr. Bridge asked how many ballfields located in the County are owned by the County. Mr. Wells stated the fields at Stuarts Draft Park are owned and maintained by the County. The fields at Crimora, New Hope, Diamondback, and Fishersville are County owned but are leased and maintained by other groups. The fields at Stuarts Draft Park are used mostly by travel teams. The fields there are designed for fast pitch softball. The teams currently using the fields are mostly 12 years old and under so these fields work well for them. Mr. Bridge asked if there has ever been serious consideration for a Recreation Facility in the County. Mr. Wells stated there was consideration years ago and money was set aside for the development at the South End of the Government Center, but the recession of 2008 changed those plans at the Board level, including dedicated funding.

7. **Matters to be presented by Staff**

7.1 Summary Reports of Recreation Infrastructure and Matching Grant funding for calendar year 2022 and 2023

Mr. Wells highlighted the Matching Grant and Infrastructure handouts.

Mr. Bridge asked if these funds come from the Parks and Recreation budget. Mr. Wells stated they do not. They come from separate Infrastructure accounts. If we need to use funds from this budget Mr. Wells would ask for support from the Commission. This would be in the form of the Commission members talking with their Board of Supervisor counterpart. Mr. Bridge clarified by asking if this money comes from the Board of Supervisors district budgets. Mr. Wells stated it does, but the Board of Supervisor members need to be in agreement, with at least 4 members approving to use the funds.

Mrs. Bosserman asked if these funds roll over year to year. Mr. Wells replied that they do. Mr. Landes stated the Board members can help each other to finance projects. Mr. Wells stated they can and they can also see how much funding is in each district's account.

[APRIL 2024 Commission Report. on 2022 cal-yr allotment of Rec Infrst & Matching Grant funds.pdf](#)

[APRIL 2024 Commission Report. on 2023 cal-yr allotment of Rec Infrst & Matching Grant funds.pdf](#)

8. Old Business

No old business to discuss.

9. New Business

Mrs. Gordon informed the Commission of the work completed by the parents and community in getting the improvements made to the fields and batting cages at the New Hope Community Center ballfields. There was some discussion on the future of those ballfields.

9.1 Consideration of funding assistance for batting cage improvements at New Hope Community Center by New Hope Weyers Cave Youth Sports Association

Anne Gordon moved to recommend the Board of Supervisors consider full or partial reimbursement of the expended \$8220.00 to the New Hope Weyers Cave Youth Sports Association for this improvement to County owned property . Steve Bridge seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. Announcement of Next Meeting and Adjournment

Mrs. Williams stated the next meeting will be held at the Government Center in the Board room on May 15th at 7pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Larry Curry moved to adjourn .

Leon Bartley seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

