

MINUTES

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

Wednesday, January 17, 2024, 7:00 PM

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

ABSENT: None

1. Call to Order

Mr. Curry called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

Mrs. Bosserman is out of town for work and inquired if she could participate remotely.

Ernie Landes moved to approve remote participation for Mrs. Bosserman .

Anne Gordon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Election of Officers for New Year

A short discussion regarding the past rotation of officers preceded the nomination and motions.

Mr. Landes nominated Mrs. Williams for Chair.

Mr. Bartley nominated Mr. Curry for Vice Chair.

Ernie Landes moved to approve Mrs. Williams for Chair.

Anne Gordon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Leon Bartley moved to approve Mr. Curry for Vice Chair .

Ernie Landes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Comments by the Public

3.1 Presentation by Mr. Bill Youell

Mrs. Williams took over as Chair and introduced Mr. Bill Youell to begin his presentation.

Mr. Youell spoke with the Commission about a soccer club he started as a way to get children involved in sports at a younger age. He stated as the high school soccer coach at Buffalo Gap he realized there was not a lot of involvement in not only soccer but all sports. He stated sports were sometimes merged or cancelled outright because there were not enough individuals trying out for the teams. He began the soccer club to help harness the interest in the children at a younger age. He has

worked with the principals at the three feeder elementary schools into Buffalo Gap High School Those schools are Craigsville Elementary, Churchville Elementary, and North River Elementary. They have worked well together and last year had 39 participants from the three schools. He stated he has a liaison at each of the schools and requires his high school athletes from the Buffalo Gap Soccer Team to devote time to teaching the younger generation, which has proved beneficial to both the older and younger students. He is approaching the Commission in need of 6 soccer goals for the three Elementary schools. He met with Mr. Wells, Parks and Recreation Director, in November to see what could be done. Mr. Wells encouraged him to come to a Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to enlist the help of the Commission.

Mrs. Williams inquired about the cost of the goals. Mr. Youell stated with Mr. Wells help he has found a company to sell the goals at a holiday rate until mid-February at the cost of \$4000. Mr. Wells stated the rate is generally \$1500-\$2800 for a set of the age appropriate goals. This makes the \$4000 rate such a good deal from a reputable dealer based out of Europe. He stated the goals are aluminum and are semi permeant. He stated two teenagers would be able to fold up the arms of the net and move them as needed but the goals could be anchored in place as well, if needed. Mr. Wells shared emails from the principals of two of the three schools in support of the soccer club.

Mr. Landes thanked Mr. Youell for all he has done for the community and student athletes. Mrs. Williams stated as a former teacher she is an advocate for helping to get children moving. She thinks this is an inexpensive way to get the children active and would benefit the community. She thanked him for coming and informed him they would discuss it further later in the meeting.

Mrs. Bosserman stated if Mr. Youell is unsuccessful in getting support she may be able to put him in touch with some community groups that would likely be able support him.

4. Adoption of Minutes

No questions or amendments to the December 2023 minutes.

Leon Bartley moved to approve December 2023 minutes.

Anne Gordon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4.1 December 2023 minutes for approval

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

5. Treasurer's Report

No questions or comments regarding the Treasurer's report.

5.1 January Treasurer's report

[2024 JANUARY Treasurers report.pdf](#)

6. Director's Report

No questions or comments regarding the Director's report.

Mrs. Williams inquired if Mr. Wells had heard anything from the Natural Chimneys group that had come to several meetings back in 2022. He stated he had not. He feels their questions may have been answered.

6.1 January Director's report

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

7. Matters to be presented by the Commission

Mrs. Gordon informed the Commission there are a few bids in for 2 pickleball courts at the Weyers Cave Community Center. They are expecting more bids.

Mrs. Gordon asked Mr. Wells if he will be meeting with Mr. Downy regarding the use of Blue Ridge Community College Rec Gym. He stated they will meet early February.

Mrs. Gordon informed the Commission of her intention to attend the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors public hearing on January 24th at 7pm. This hearing is to take public comment on the delay or termination the construction of the Crossroads Field House.

8. Matters to be presented by Staff

9. No Matters to be Presented by Staff.

10. Old Business

No Old Business to discuss.

11. New Business

Mrs. Williams began a discussion about the previous mentioned soccer goals.

Mrs. Bosserman made a motion.

Mr. Wells stated he will update the Commission on when this item is added to the Board of Supervisors meeting agenda.

Samantha Bosserman moved to recommend for approval

'I move to recommend the Board of Supervisors consider providing \$4,000 to fully fund the purchase of 3 sets of 6' x 12' youth soccer goals for use by after-school clubs at Craigsville Elementary, Churchville Elementary, and North River Elementary with the Parks & Recreation Department maintaining ownership of the goals and make arrangements with Mr. Youell and the elementary schools for placement and any future necessary relocation. The Commission suggests that funding could be provided through the magisterial districts' Recreation Matching Grant & Recreation Infrastructure accounts being that such an allocation would meet the same goals as those established for the Recreation Matching Grant Program.'

Ernie Landes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10.1 June meeting date change due to Holiday conflict

Mrs. Williams moved on to the next item regarding the June 19th meeting change due to a holiday. Mr. Wells stated we can meet a different day that week or move it to another week. After a short discussion, Mrs. Williams stated the Commission will revisit this topic at the next meeting. This will give everyone time to look at their calendars and we can see what dates the Government Center has available during the month of June for the meeting. Mr. Wells will add the date change to February's agenda.

Mr. Wells informed the Commission the meeting could be held in another room should the Board room be reserved for the approved date change. Mr. Landes mentioned we could meet in the new space for that meeting.

11. Announcement of Next Meeting and Adjournment

Mrs. Williams announced our next meeting will be held on February 21, 2024 in the Government Center Board room at 7pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.

Larry Curry moved to adjourn .

Anne Gordon seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.