

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

June 13, 2023

MEETING OF THE POWHATAN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION HELD ON JUNE 13, 2023, AT 6:00 PM IN THE TRAINING ROOM OF THE POCAHONTAS LANDMARK CENTER AT 4290 ANDERSON HIGHWAY IN POWHATAN VIRGINIA

Commission Members Present: Frank Flannagan
Josh Cabaniss
Judy Cain-Oliver
Greg Davis
Alex Higgins

Non-Voting Members Present: Megan Heatwole, Director of Parks & Recreation
Will Hagy, Deputy County Administrator
Bob Benway, Powhatan County Schools
Steve McClung, Board of Supervisors

Special Guests: C.D. Chaffins, Special Olympics
Crystal Fowler, Special Olympics
Jayne Lloyd, Community Matters
Jason Weaver, Powhatan Fastpitch
Christy Cifers, YMCA
Sharon Sopf, Powhatan Pulse Basketball
Patrick Cosgriff, Fury FC President

A. Call to Order

F. Flannagan called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. A quorum was established.

F. Additions/ Changes to the Agenda

In absence of a Chair and Vice Chair F. Flannagan led the meeting since he is the longest standing member. An election for new Chairs will be taken at the next meeting in July.

G. Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the March 23, 2023, meeting minutes was made by F. Flannagan and seconded by J. Cabaniss. *Motion passed 4-0.*

H. Citizen Comments

Patrick Cosgriff, President of Fury FC, announced he is stepping down in leadership within the organizations and they will be electing a new President. He expressed challenges with field conditions this spring season 2023 and proposed considerations for future field investments, such as installing turf on 1 out of 3 existing fields to offer all weather experiences year-round, that could also accommodate other sports.

Christy Cifers, Powhatan YMCA, shared that the Powhatan YMCA has 5,000+ members and growing. The YMCA has challenges with providing ample space to meet the high community

June 13, 2023

demand. The YMCA serves all ages and offers aquatics, group exercise, trips, senior socials, and youth sports. They partner with Powhatan Schools and Parks and Recreation for indoor and outdoor recreation space. The swim team has 156 participants.

Sharon Sopf, Powhatan Pulse Basketball, shared that Powhatan Basketball has nearly 200 participants, a record number. She suggested expanding to outdoor locations such as the existing courts behind the Pocahontas Landmark Center.

Jayne Lloyd, Community Matters, is a partner of Parks and Recreation and hosts enrichment based programs for adults 55+ at the Pocahontas Landmark Center 4 days a week. She appreciates having a home base for her programs and has witnessed a trend among participants that includes retirees moving to Powhatan and wanting local recreational programs, facilities, and activities to stay active and engaged.

Jason Weaver, Powhatan Fastpitch Softball, announced the league had 205 girls enrolled and 18 total teams in the spring 2023 season. The league was formed in 1977 and has been based out of Turner Complex. They are hosting the Dixie Softball Virginia State Tournament Friday 7/7 to Monday 7/10 and Friday 7/14 to Monday 7/17 at Turner Complex.

I. Old Business

At the September workshop there was a vote to proceed with a *"review and analysis of the community center concept"* and come back to the Board before expending funds. Shortly after that the county had the change in Administration, so not much happened between then and the 4/17 PRAC joint workshop where it was next discussed, where PRAC asked to *"conduct a feasibility study for a community center."* The suggestion from PRAC was specifically a study *"of a Powhatan County Community Center to include estimated construction cost, maintenance costs, staffing costs, demand analysis and recommended size. Focus ... on site options within the County's Village Area where a building can be connected to the Fighting Creek Park trail network and near the YMCA and Schools."* The County has drafted an RFP that fits this scope to go out in June. \$500,000 has been appropriated for the study. J. Cabaniss requested the scope.

There is a request for traffic counters to be located at Fighting Creek Park, Turner Complex, and counters to be utilized during tournaments and special events.

J. New Business

1. M. Heatwole gave PRAC a new member orientation presentation including an overview of the department profile, staff, facilities, programs, events, and upcoming projects and CIP.
2. M. Heatwole reviewed the April monthly report and gave an update on the following:
 - i. The department is currently hiring new PT Recreation Aide and FT Recreation Coordinator.
 - ii. The director is developing an RFP for a Trail Master Plan.

June 13, 2023

- iii. Five outdoor automated external defibrillators (AED's) have been purchased to be installed at our sport complexes for accessibility during an emergency. Each AED is in an alarmed, weather-proof case, at the following locations:
 1. Fighting Creek Park soccer concession stand
 2. Fighting Creek Park baseball concession stand
 3. Turner Complex pavilion (behind Turner field)
 4. Village Complex Aces Diamond outfield
 5. Pocahontas Landmark Center Pickleball Courts
 - iv. The director is working with a marketing firm, Key Web Concepts, to design a new PR logo and branding guide.
 - v. The department is onboarding with Recreation Management Software MyRec.
 - vi. The department is partnering with NAACP and African American Cultural and History Museum to host a Juneteenth Celebration at the Pocahontas Landmark Center on Saturday June 17, from 12pm-4pm.
 - vii. Spring Sports coming to an end and the fields are resting. PLC Multi-use and FCP Soccer fields are closed for maintenance.
3. M. Heatwole and W. Hagy gave an overview of the Turner Concession Stand project and Turner Complex Master plan.
 4. W. Hagy shared a request from a citizen to honor a state police officer. The county has a policy for dedicating trees, benches, etc. The request comes to the County Parks and Recreation Department. The policy will be shared with PRAC and all forms will be uploaded/accessible on the new Parks and Recreation website.

K. Comments from the Board

F. Flannagan complimented the turf and maintenance at FCP soccer fields. The sprigs are wet and fertilized.

- He noted, FCP Orange field needs weed maintenance and fertilization. There are several bare spots in outfield from kids digging into the field out with cleats. Proposal to enforce fiscal responsibility among coaches and leagues for incurred damages. Irrigation heads need to be raised.
- The Powhatan Parks and Rec Director was commended for giving a great presentation at Lions Club. Club members are willing to volunteer to help repair picnic tables.
- Presented observation that a safety latch is broken on FCP playground swing. A new part has been ordered by Public Works.

J. Cabaniss advised to cut the grass lower on admin lacrosse field. Balls and other hazards can disappear in taller grass.

- Also noted, that the team benches by the entry road are not stabilized.
- The new shed at admin lacrosse multi-use field is "glorious."
- It's been observed that the community has taken to the park, and it's being well used. The park has provided a new location for prom photos and one wedding has been held at the park.

G. Davis encourages Commission members and partners to share posts from the Parks and Recreation and County Facebook page.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

June 13, 2023

- County staff is advised to post a QR code to PR website or social media on all printed materials.

Add additional signage for AED at Turner Complex.

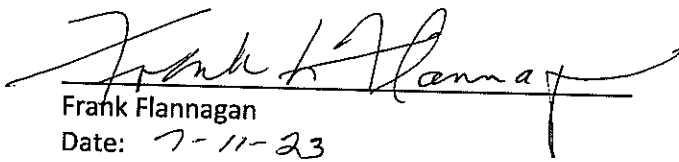
New business for monthly PRAC meeting agenda should be submitted to the Parks and Recreation Director at least 24 hours prior to the meeting date. Pressing discussion topics after the established deadline can be announced as additions or changes to the agenda during the meeting.

L. Upcoming Events

1. Village Park Acoustic Music: Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 5:00pm
2. Village Movie and Market: Moana: Saturday, July 22, 2023, 6:30pm
3. Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 6:00pm

M. Adjournment

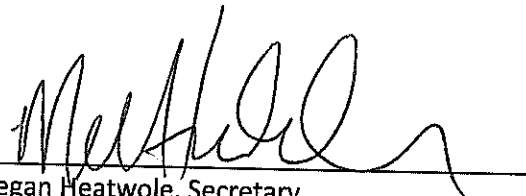
Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.



Frank Flannagan

Date: 7-11-23

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission



Megan Heatwole, Secretary

Date:

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission