

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

August 8, 2023

MEETING OF THE POWHATAN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION HELD ON AUGUST 8, 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
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: Dave Bass, Fury FC
Daniel Layne, Powhatan Lacrosse

- A. J. Cabaniss called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. A quorum was established.
- B. A motion to approve the August 8, 2023, meeting agenda was properly made and seconded. *Motion passed 4-0.* No additions or changes were made.
- C. A motion to approve the July 11, 2023, meeting minutes was properly made and seconded. *Motion passed 4-0.*

D. Citizen Comments

Dave Bass, liaison of Fury FC, commented that he likes to see continuous projects being implemented that serve a diverse population and interests versus one big project every 10-20 years.

E. Old Business

1. The Department received four (4) applications for the Community Center Feasibility Study. Next, staff will review and rank the proposals received. Staff will interview the firm(s) who submitted promising proposals over the next few weeks.
2. M. Heatwole presented the Parks and Recreation June monthly report. A new Recreation Coordinator, with a focus on youth, teens, families, special events, nature and outdoor recreation will be starting on August 21, 2023. The department is recruiting for a new Athletic Coordinator.
3. The State Softball Tournament in July hosted 190 players and 1,000 non-players and non-coaches the first Friday. The second Friday the tournament hosted 220 players and 800 non-players and non-coaches.
3. The Turner Park Concession Building is nearing the final stages of design. The money currently budgeted for the project will not be sufficient to complete the project so the next step will be for

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the project to be placed on a Board of Supervisors agenda to be discussed and considered for increased funding.

Commissioners proposed to send the Board a letter from the Commission to support the funding for the build. All voting commission members agreed that PRAC would support the Turner Concessions

4. The Commission reviewed and discussed the Powhatan County FY2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Department of Parks and Recreation. Staff posted the FY25 CIP Matrix on a whiteboard and asked Commission members to begin discussing and creating CIP request for the upcoming budget cycle. The Commission discussed the Fighting Creek Park Phase 3 expansion, the Turner Park Conceptual Master Plan, the Community Center Project, ADA improvements to facilities, and other priority projects.

F. New Business

1. M. Heatwole presented the new Parks and Recreation logo with a video presentation showing the intention, creative process, and future use of the logo.
2. Products and estimates from two reputable trail and traffic counter companies a.) TRAFX and b.) Eco-Counter were shared with the Commission members for consideration. The Director will follow up with a spreadsheet detailing locations and cost comparison at the next meeting for further discussion and consideration.

G. Comments from the Board

- F. Flannagan announced that the Lions Club is set up to build picnic tables.
- J. Cabaniss walked all of Powhatan's public park properties and met with all affiliated leagues for feedback. He created a work-order list with photos of park maintenance projects and issues in addition to the following feedback:
 - Fighting Creek Park is the County's best recreational facility and should set a standard for maintenance.
 - Powhatan Football is appreciative of the alternate practice field at PLC that was lined courtesy of the contractor.
 - Lacrosse attending Thurs Farmers Market – wants to partner in winter season on camps and programs.
 - Little League requests more transparency and communication on work orders between leagues, Public Works, and the Parks and Recreation Departments.
- J. Cain-Oliver talked about possible collaboration with existing groups to maintain the trails. M. Heatwole shared that a "Adopt a Trail" program is something she would like to initiate at some point in the future.

H. Upcoming Events

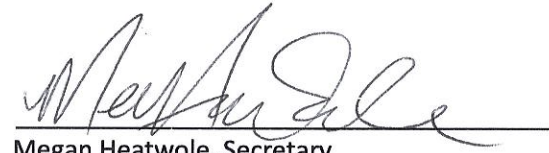
1. Village Park Acoustic Music: Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 5:00pm
2. Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 12, 2023, 6:00pm

1. Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

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Josh Cabaniss, Chair
Date:
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission


Megan Heatwole, Secretary
Date: 9-12-23
Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

