



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Meeting Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022
VIRTUAL TEAMS MEETING – 6:00 p.m.

Approved 5/5/22

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members

PRESENT	DISTRICT	STANDING COMMITTEES
Brenda White Vaughn, Chair	Bermuda District	Athletic Activities Committee Future Visions Outreach & Greenways
Cathy Cheely, Vice-Chair	Bermuda District	Capital Projects Committee Future Visions Outreach & Greenways
David Glass	School Board Representative	Athletic Activities Committee Capital Projects Committee
Shayne McDavid	Clover Hill District	Capital Projects Committee Future Visions Outreach & Greenways
William “Billy” Pipp	Matoaca District	Capital Projects Committee
John Simpson	Midlothian District	Athletic Activities Committee Capital Projects Committee
Bob Terrell	Dale District	Athletic Activities Committee Capital Projects Committee
Rueben Turner	Dale District	Athletic Activities Committee

Quorum is 6 per Bylaws

ABSENT

Jason C. Brown	Clover Hill District	Athletic Activities Committee Future Visions Outreach & Greenways
Raymond Marsh	Matoaca District	Athletic Activities Committee Future Visions Outreach & Greenways
Rob McCurry	Midlothian District	Athletic Activities Committee

Parks and Recreation Liaisons/County Staff

Present:

- Neil Luther, Director, Primary Liaison,
- Marlaine Creasey-Smith, Assistant Director, Recreation, Primary Liaison Athletic Activities, Future Visions Outreach & Greenways Committee
- Stan Thorne, Assistant Director, Parks, Primary Liaison Parks, Capital Projects, Future Visions Outreach & Greenways Committee
- Stuart Connock, Jr., Assistant Director, Planning & Construction Services, Primary Liaison, Capital Projects and Future Visions Outreach & Greenways Committee
- Bill Carlson, Athletics Manager, Liaison Athletic Activities, Capital Projects Committee
- Janit Llewellyn, Principal Planner, Planning & Construction Services
- Joe Stovall, Construction Manager, Planning & Construction Services
- Holly Angel, Administrative Assistant, Parks & Recreation

Speaker(s) or Guests Present:	Subject/Organization
Chris Terrell	Pickleball
Vicki Jolena-Orthaus	Pickleball
Roland Stokes	Cogbill Park/Pickleball
Chris Christiansen	Pickleball
Jim Palmore	Pickleball
Robin Madron	CTC Hull Dog Park

We had approximately 115 different individuals total for the Virtual meeting. The majority of that number represented Pickleball in support of pickleball and future amenities – all were given the opportunity to speak.

🌿 Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Mission Statement 🌿

Working in partnership with the public, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Board of Supervisors, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) seeks to eliminate obstacles that interfere with Chesterfield County’s ability to efficiently and safely provide greenways, parks, recreational facilities, and associated programs. PRAC also strives to support recreational programs and facilities that a First-Choice Community such as Chesterfield should afford its citizens, as well as to exercise leadership in projecting the future recreational needs of the County’s citizens and determining how best to meet those needs.

Public Statement made by Department Administrative Assistant prior to meeting starting: We thank you for attending this virtual meeting this evening. A couple housekeeping items before we begin. Please be sure to mute your speaker if you are not speaking. If you desire to speak, raise your hand and you will be called upon. If you make a motion, please state your name and the motion that you are making so that the records are complete. This is a public meeting and we welcome comments on items that are not on the agenda. An opportunity at the end of the meeting will be given to each individual that would like to speak to items that are not on the agenda, for no longer than 3 minutes each. If there are items for Public Hearing and input, the Commission will first be given an opportunity to discuss and ask questions and then it will be opened up to the public to ask questions. As items are presented to the Commission, we ask that Commission members be given the first opportunity to ask questions. The public will have an opportunity to ask questions, when called upon. All individuals desiring to speak will be acknowledged and called upon to do so. Please also be reminded that this public meeting is being recorded as a matter of public record for the files. Madame Chair.

Meeting Procedures:

The meeting was held virtually and opportunities for those that desired to speak were given.

- I. **Call PRAC Meeting to Order:** Brenda White Vaughn welcomed the Virtual assembly at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present.
- II. **Non-Sectarian Invocation:** The invocation was given by Bob Terrell.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Cathy Cheely led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. **Welcome and Introduction of Neil Luther, Director, Parks & Recreation:** Brenda White Vaughn – Neil Luther spoke briefly about his background and then the Commissioners introduced themselves and told a little about their mission and the district that they represent.
- V. **Approval of the PRAC Meeting Minutes of March 3, 2022:**
 - 🌿 A motion was made to approve the March 3, 2022, minutes by Bob Terrell with a 2nd by Cathy Cheely. There being no further discussion, the minutes were approved as presented. No Member opposed. The approved minutes will be posted on the Parks and Recreation website: <https://www.chesterfield.gov/1075/Parks-Recreation-Advisory-Commission-PRA>
- VI. **Amendments to the Agenda:** One Amendment to the Agenda was made to move the Parks Operations Update to the beginning of the meeting. Stan Thorne gave his report first as he had to leave for another meeting. *Notes are included further in the body of the minutes.*
- VII. **Items for Public Hearing** – *(staff or presenter responses are in italics)*
 - 🌿 No items for public hearing.

VIII. Old Business:

- 🌱 **Update – VCU Survey and Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey** – Janit Llewellyn – the survey is coming along very nicely; had a follow up meeting for the diversity portion to be sure that we are reaching all in Chesterfield County; looking at doing a video version for outreach and using some of the contacts that David Glass has with his groups and also doing the survey in different languages, church outreach and various media outlets.
 - Mr. Stokes – where do we go from here? – *Janit – working with those on the committee to help set dates for outreach in the fall and tracking information – will be looking for volunteers to help out with that as we move along.*
- 🌱 **Update – Runoff Pond at Etrick Park** – Stan Thorne – The Pond is a relatively small BMP – we maintain everything outside of the fence – the question was in reference to the pond and addressing any potential mosquitoes – talking with Environmental Engineering – this is a wet pond (500 are within the county) – wet ponds do not typically breed mosquitoes and the fish, tadpoles control the mosquitoes very well – it is extremely rare to find any larva in their ponds – if they do, it comes from trash that has been littered in the ponds – if found they will treat it – the larva must be present in the water columns in order to treat – there is scheduled maintenance during the year – next visit is scheduled for June 14 – they have federal regulations that they have to meet. On our side of fence where it stays wet – we will begin to maintain the area outside a little bit lower – will lower the canopy of the grass to help with being able to see litter on the ground – will continue to monitor and keep in contact with Environmental Engineering.

IX. New Business: Tennis to Pickleball Conversion Analysis Update – Stuart Connock – Public Poll responses were very strong responses for Huguenot Park; we do have 26 dedicated pickleball courts – 12 at CTC Hull – 8 at Rockwood and 6 at Daniel for a total of 26 courts; additional opportunities – shared courts (blended lines) – at Midlothian MS, SCMS, Goynes, Etrick and Dodd Parks. Bulk of use is at Huguenot, very small use at Dodd Park.

- 🌱 **John Simpson** – what is the difference in height for the pickleball net vs the tennis net – **Chris Terrell** - a tennis net is 36” in the middle, pickleball net is 34” in the middle – builds bad habits when the net is not at regulation height for pickleball
- 🌱 **Chris Terrell** – Pickleball Club of CC – there are 8 courts at Rockwood and only 6 at Daniel (Rockwood continues to be very popular) and has a lot of natural wind protection at Rockwood – wind is quite evident at CTC Hull – no cover; we encourage beginners to come out to Rockwood; almost no one is using the blended courts at this point – would argue for more courts; Pickleball is a drop in sport – games generally last about 15 minutes – need more than 1 court at Beulah than is slated at Beulah; thanks to the pickleball group for coming out tonight
- 🌱 **Vicki Jolena-Orthaus** – wanted to put a plug in for beginners and more courts especially for those of us that are aging – I have been able to introduce so many people to pickleball
- 🌱 **Roland Stokes** – for the pickleball players – what are the ultimate playing fields for pickleball? – **Chris Terrell** – in an ideal facility you would have up to 24 courts – then you can host large tournaments at that point – in regular play, you need to have a minimum of at least 4 courts to be able to accommodate 16 people at one time – would prefer to have a minimum of 4-6 courts at each location; **Tammy Scott** – would love to have some indoor pickleball courts – if there was different flooring at Stonebridge – could accommodate a lot of Pickleball courts (to equate – 2 tennis courts = 6 pickleball courts)

X. Parks and Recreation Department Updates: Neil Luther, Director – have had a chance to meet with 4 of 5 BOS members and looking forward to completing that and talking about any concerns and thoughts; have been out with staff and driving and seeing sites; do look forward to getting back to in person and have ventured out to many areas and looking forward to meeting each of you personally.

XI. Parks and Recreation Staff Reports: *(Staff comments are in italics)*

- 🌱 **Planning and Construction Staff Report:** Stuart Connock - **Brown and Williamson Conservation Area** – 262 acres – applying for a grant for a small parking area and trail system – has only been by appointment in the past; **Harrowgate Park** – gained an additional 26 acres – Phase I is complete (lighted the athletic field at Carver MS) – Phase II is nearing completion and looking to have open to public in late April and planning a ribbon cutting for May (work behind the school – own restrooms and improvements to ball fields, new circulation between facilities, new entrance) – Final Phase III is going out to bid shortly – still a year out to be able to deliver the final phase – passive recreation will come into this area – open play area, not reserved, picnic/shelter area/playground; **Ware Bottom Church Battlefield Civil War Park** – 51 acres - part of funding came from Federal Government – finalized – the recorded conservation easement will be complete within next 30 days; **CIP program** – that was approved last evening by the BOS – PR will receive almost \$45M to go towards existing and building new facilities – a large part will also be going towards the Bond issue this fall – PR is just one piece; **High School Stadium Turf Fields** – conversion from grass to artificial turf at 2 locations – Bird and Monacan High School; **Horner Park** – 3 projects – bringing irrigation to the park – irrigation to the rectangle fields and adding 2 restrooms – those will be bid out later this summer; **American Recovery Plan Act Projects – (ARPA) Projects** - \$\$ allocated to the county to be used for economic stimulus as well to build economic assets – **Cogbill Park** is part of this section – not completed on the environmental studies and the impact that they would have – delay until May; **Robious Landing**

Park – Floating Diverter Dock – bids came in over budget – back to drawing board and determine this result at a lower cost – hope to have a contract awarded in the summer; **Winterpock Regional Park** – ARPA will allow us to move forward sooner to do a small parking area with some trails and future funds for the major amenities.

- **Billy Pipp** – what is being staged at Horner Park? – *Stuart - the water line – 16” water line on Genito and then a 12” line to the Park*
- **David Glass** – over in corner at Bensley where Baseball field was is still primarily clay – what will happen with that? – *Stuart - we will be coming back with a compost blend to add organics to the soil – may need to do some deep tine to loosen that area up – we will solve before we put the sprigs in the ground.*
- **Chris Christiansen** – Pickleball blended lines at Dodd Park – 2 of the tennis courts - why do they need to be blended lines – can they be traffic orange or yellow - we have no other place to play – and appreciate the 2 courts that were repaired this year – *Stuart – we can address that – maybe a traffic yellow*
- **Roland Stokes** – Cogbill Park – *Stuart - were scheduled to give a presentation this evening on the development but the final delineations for the resource protections were not complete – the area grew from what we anticipated – we are working very closely with our environmental group - we will bring back to you in May on what we think we can fit in Phase I - Mr. Stokes - do we gain more land due to the surveys? – Stuart - we have less developmental land – more in environmental features – the church, we need to follow up on to see if that is still a concern*

🌱 **Parks Staff Report:** Stan Thorne – from Parks Maintenance Operations – busy season and making the transition – finishing our winter project list – began April with spot mowing and now moved into full mowing schedule at all sites – staff working hard to stay ahead of everything – currently have 5 PMW positions vacant to fill – staff has worked hard to fill voids; now hired the full compliment of the Athletic Field Crews of 8 in Phase I – they are getting their feet under them and the impact; many projects across the districts completed D1 - with limbing of all park trails and tree lines at Dodd, Ettrick and Matoaca Parks, new guard rails; D2 – New guardrail installed at Daniel Park and new wooden fence at Bensley Park; D3 – regraded the track at Evergreen Elementary, Rockwood Park renovations of restrooms done by staff vs contracting that out; D4 complete renovation & cleanup of Robious baseball complex and building landscape enclosures at Greenfield Elementary; D5 – improvements to Manchester Complex working with CLL and CTC Hull – rebuilt baseball mound; D6 – repair/replace 972 linear feet of playground borders at 4 elementary schools, update of various signage and replenish all park landscape mulch and limbed trees; Landscape/Horticulturist Crew – on-going tree removal project at CTC Hull – phase 1 of replanting Bird Complex is complete and Phase 2 at Bird Complex will begin after spring break with the installation of new plant materials; Athletics Crew – assumed all athletic field responsibilities at Bird Athletic Complex and mowing duties at Robious Athletic Complex and successfully provided coverage for their first weekend tournament at Bird Athletic Complex.

- **Billy Pipp** – words of appreciation for reaching out last week for a situation at Manchester High School

🌱 **Recreation Staff Report:** Marlie Creasey-Smith – **Eventmakers** are out at RCSP – site improvements are being made – a press release is coming out on April 18 – 4 confirmed concert dates with the goal to confirm 10-12 shows for the season; **Gold Medal** – last year we were a finalist – our application has been submitted – we will find out on May 2 if we are a finalist and at that point then video production begins which will be due on May 27; **Youth Citizen Board** – working since September 2021 – Youth Unity Day project at Bensley Park on May 14 then follow up with a presentation to the BOS on 5/25

XII. Public Comments on Unscheduled Matters: *this is an opportunity for the public attending to voice concerns over any issue/concern that is not on the agenda – each citizen will have 3 minutes to voice their comments. All citizens will be acknowledged and called upon by the Chair or designee to address the Commission or Staff*

🌱 **Jim Palmore** – Pickleball – statement to follow up – this is the fastest growing sport now – as the younger folks get on board, it will continue to grow; would be very positive to continue to grow and bring in larger sports - appreciate all that you do for us

🌱 **Robin Madron** – question for Joe Stovall – Clover Hill Dog Park at CTC – know they are working on improvements – lot of trouble with aggressive dogs not being controlled by their owners – need some help on this problem and know that it is going to be closed next week for renovations – update would be appreciated – *Joe Stovall – the large dog park will be completely done in stone dust next week so it will be closed and within about 3 weeks from now the delivery of the shelter for the small dog park area will be in place and in about 2 weeks it should be open to the public for use; Mud sections in the small dog park will also be corrected; aggressive dogs – Stuart – Stan had a meeting this afternoon with one of the users that was involved with an incident – we are aware of some dogs and owners not behaving well – this is not a manned site – we have the same set of rules as we do at the other sites – we are talking with one of the individuals that was involved – we will take steps as to what needs to be done – will update at future meeting – Marlie - we are working on a communication plan for the public to address some of these issues and concerns and Stan will report at our next meeting - Joe will check with Stan tomorrow and find out how the meeting went this afternoon and follow up with Robin tomorrow.*

XIII. Committee Reports: No Committee(s) Report

XIV. Commission Roundtable Discussions: (Park Champion Briefs)

- 🌱 **Rueben Turner** – welcome to Neil and look forward to working with him
- 🌱 **Cathy Cheely** – obvious that parks are full of players, parents and children and thanks to everyone for getting us ready for springtime; any plans for a grand opening for Historic Point of Rocks – *Stuart – currently no plans*
- 🌱 **David Glass** – thanks to Janit for including on the survey for input – very productive meeting and to Bill Carlson very helpful in getting fields and Chad and Calvin – appreciate all that they do – Bensley park has been full of people
- 🌱 **John Simpson** – welcome Neil – I am so pleased that we are planning on getting back together in August
- 🌱 **Billy Pipp** – welcome Neil and look forward to meeting you soon, Brenda - appreciate introducing us to your grandchild - all is appreciated by Stan and Stuart and their responses
- 🌱 **Bob Terrell** – appreciate all that everyone does
- 🌱 **Shayne McDavid** – thanks for opportunity to meet Neil – I look forward to seeing and learning from your leadership and how you help to continue the outstanding success of PR
- 🌱 **Marlaine Creasey-Smith** – no further comments
- 🌱 **Janit Llewellyn** – no further comments
- 🌱 **Stuart Connock** – no further comments
- 🌱 **Joe Stovall** – no further comments
- 🌱 **Neil Luther** – no further comments
- 🌱 **Bill Carlson** – our winter youth basketball season had a strong season with our boys’ teams having a strong successful season; spring sports is following in that same direction; River City Sportsplex has been nominated again among 34 facilities for the distinction of top 10 soccer/lacrosse for destinations – we will be sending you something to vote in the near future – voting ends on April 21 and how to vote
- 🌱 **Holly Angel** – thanks to everyone for all your participation this evening
- 🌱 **Brenda White Vaughn** – welcome to Neil and look forward to working with you in a lot of aspects – Parks are looking really great – we had a large # tune in tonight and thank you
 - Mr. Stokes – want to keep virtual an option to increase participation and welcome to Neil Luther and my goal is to see Cogbill Park built

XV. Recommendation of Agenda Items for the May 5, 2022 Virtual Meeting:

- 🌱 Update - VCU Survey and Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey – Janit Llewellyn
- 🌱 May 5 – Cogbill Road Phase One Development Plan Public Comments – Janit Llewellyn – Virtual
- 🌱 Update – Brown & Williamson – Stuart Connock
- 🌱 Youth Advisory Citizen Board Project – Marlie Creasey-Smith
- 🌱 Updates on Events Occurring at CTC Hull from Owners and Aggressive Dogs – Stan Thorne

XVI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Holly Angel, Administrative Assistant, Parks & Recreation. ***The next PRAC meeting will be at 6:00 on Thursday, May 5, 2022 – Virtually. Hopeful to return to in-person in August 2022. (No meetings held in June or July unless needed).***