

PRINCE WILLIAM

Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Brodie Freer, Chair, Occoquan District
Christian Thom, At Large Member
Vida Carroll, Brentsville District
Jane Beyer, Coles District
Rick Berry, Gainesville District
Ross W. Snare, IV, Neabsco District
Oriella Mejia, Potomac District
Sharon Richardson, Woodbridge District

June 12, 2024

George Hellwig Administrative Bldg. Board Room
14420 Bristow Rd. Manassas, VA

Commission Members Present

Rick Berry
Jane Beyer
Vida Carroll
Brodie Freer
Oriella Mejia
Ross Snare
Sharon Richardson

Staff Present

Janet Bartnik
John Blevins
Rob Orrison
Todd Reid
Eugene Loew
Frances Bridges
Amir Wenrich

Commission Members Absent

Christian Thom

Guests

None

Secretary

Shannon Jaenicke

Citizens

None

Call to Order

At 7:00 p.m. Brodie Freer called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission to order. Oriella Mejia led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Administrative Items

RES 24-15 Amend Agenda of June 12, 2024 to include election of a officer nominating committee under New Business. **APPROVED (BF:JB, Unanimous)**

RES 24-16 Approve Minutes of May 15, 2024. **APPROVED (JB:RS, Unanimous)**

Citizens Time

None

Presentations

Trails Maintenance Update

Eugene Loew, Maintenance and Operations Assistant Director, provided an update on new trail funding for FY 25, data on trail maintenance and volunteer activities and on Stewardship Agreements with Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (M.O.R.E.) for Trails, Prince William Conservation Alliance for Veterans Park invasives removal, and Animal Education and Rescue Organization (AERO) for establishment and

maintenance of the meadow and pollinator garden at Rollins Ford Park [Presentation available from Secretary to the Commission].

Summer Camp and Aquatics Updates

John Blevins , Recreation Assistant Director, provided the following updates:

- All community pools and waterparks opened on Memorial Day weekend, first time all pools have been fully staffed to open on Memorial Day since 2019.
- Aquatics revenues are off to a great start, already having hit a few full capacity days
- New for this summer season is the option to rent kayaks online, this has been popular and will be expanded to other rental types
- Summer Camps begin Monday June 17. Camps are at 92% capacity. 145 camps are full, overall registrations are 6028, and 2094 are on waitlists.
- DPR has hired 845 seasonal staff.

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

None

New Business

RES 24-17 Appoint Ross Snare and Vida Carroll to Officer Nominating Committee. **APPROVED**
RB:JB, Unanimous)

Director Time

Director Seth Hendler-Voss provided the following updates:

- The Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) approved the following on June 4; Budget and Appropriate Proffers for installation of lights on the Long Park Diamond Fields; Authorize an Easement at Lindon Field at Ben Lomond Park in exchange for Park Improvements; Ratify \$100,000 reimbursement grant from NPS for Neabsco Boardwalk; Budget and appropriate turf reserve funds for the replacement of turf on Hellwig Park Field 8. On June 12 the BOCS approved the budget and appropriation of funds to complete the purchase of 13505 Telegraph Rd. in Woodbridge.
- On July 2 there will be a National Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation at 2pm at the BOCS meeting. All Parks Board, Commission and Council members are invited to attend.
- Also on July 2 the BOCS will consider reallocating \$23,000 in remaining ARPA funds from the Holiday Walk of Lights to other Parks and Rec Programs (Rec on Wheels, Bluegrass Festival and Movie Nights in the Park).
- Last week the Office of Historic Preservation commemorated the 250 Anniversary of the Prince William Resolves, the precursor to the County joining the Revolutionary War. Staff did a tremendous job!

Deputy Director Janet Bartnik shared the following Capital Project updates:

- The CAPRA required Needs Assessment budget initiative failed, however we have been able to work with the County community survey provider to get it done. It is required every five years for accreditation. A kickoff meeting date will be determined soon.

ARPA project updates as follows:

Complete or Nearly Complete Projects:

- Cloverdale comfort station nearly complete as the contractor completes the roofing portion of the project. All that is left to be renovated at Cloverdale is the Tennis Courts which are not funded at this time.
- At Birchdale Park, ADA accessible concrete pads were added to connect the grills to the pavilion.
- Jenkins Park shelter and walkway are complete.
- Benches have been added at Anne Moncure Park.

Projects currently under construction:

- Pat White Elevator is still not permitted, as there is an issue with the alarm call system that must be corrected first.
- Braemar Park playground replacement is under way.
- Fairmont Park's playground replacement is still waiting final word on the Kaboom grant.

Shovel ready:

- WaterWorks Picnic Area upgrades
- Broad Run Trail Bridge replacement
- Belmont Park Bridge replacement

In design:

- Park Signage refresh
- Orchard Bridge Cricket Field
- Ellis Barron Park Upgrades
- Valley View Park's Trail/Access improvement cost estimates are too high, staff is working to reduce scope and/or scale to meet budget.
- Cotton Mill Trail design is nearing completion. A VDOT requested change is being finalized.
- Dale City Rec Center Park's design has significant challenges given its slope. Staff met to work through the design challenges and to find a path forward that may not resolve all accessibility issues.

Commissioners Time

Ms. Richardson Ms. Richardson attended a County Strategic Plan session on behalf of the Woodbridge District, during the session she heard a number of comments regarding protection of open space for wildlife; She inquired about starting an initiative for the Commission to recognize individuals who contribute to Parks; she brought forward an ongoing concern at the Neabsco Boardwalk with citizens feeding wildlife; she also shared information about National news media coverage of the partnership between Parks and the Police that allowed police forensics to test for blood at the Ben Lomond Manor House that was used as a field hospital after the Battle of First Manassas

Ms. Mejia Ms. Mejia offered a suggestion to produce a first week of summer newsletter with summer safety content.

- Mr. Berry Mr. Berry is unable to attend the July 2 Parks and Recreation month proclamation; he has been following the Long Park work and it is looking very good; he thanked tonight's presenters and stated that the county views trail development as a very important component of both mobility and recreation and we are fortunate to have both county and volunteer support for these trails.
- Ms. Beyer Mr. Beyer thanked tonight's presenters and for the very good news on trail funding and pool openings; she attended the Seefeldt Awards and it was a very good event.
- Ms. Carroll Thanked staff for the information regarding the Valley View Accessibility improvements; She shared that an adaptive summer camp program held at the Freedom Aquatic and Fitness Center was unable to operate this year due to lack of funding and she stated that more adaptive swim programs are needed. Staff offered to meet with her and the Inclusion Coordinator to discuss.
- Mr. Freer Chair Freer shared that he enjoyed park visits to Neabsco Boardwalk and Hammill Mill pools, this is the time of year to get out and enjoy the parks, thanks to staff for all of their hard work maintaining our parks.


Closed Session None.

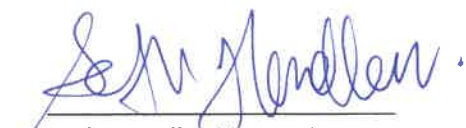
Adjournment

RES 24-18 Motion to Adjourn at 8:20 pm. **APPROVED (RS:OM, Unanimous)**

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be held on July 17, 2024, at the Hellwig Park Administration Building.

Minutes **APPROVED** at Parks and Recreation Commission meeting held on July 17, 2024.

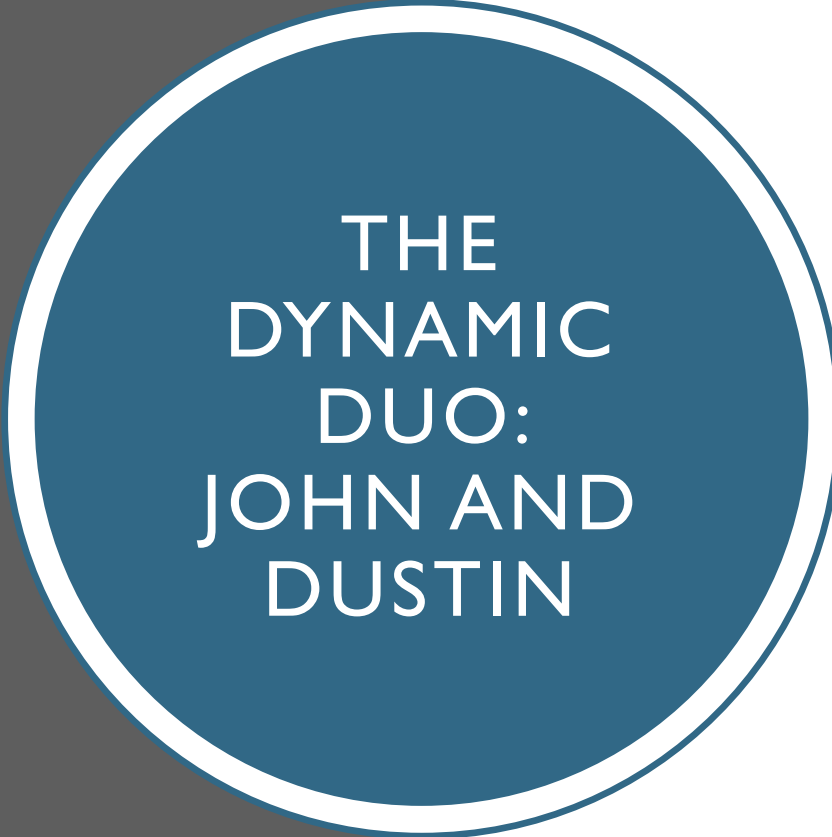

Brodie Freer, Chair


Seth Hendler-Voss, Director


Shannon Jaenicke, Secretary

TRAIL MAINTENANCE UPDATES

MAY 2024



THE
DYNAMIC
DUO:
JOHN AND
DUSTIN

FY24 marked the inaugural year with John Simkins serving as the first PWC Trail Supervisor. Alongside his team member Dustin Dugan, they conducted regular monitoring and maintenance of trails across PWC, installed unarmored turnpike and culverts on Powell's Creek and orchestrated two significant clean-up events, resulting in the collection of 200 bags of trash and 40 tires.

John's collaborative efforts with community members, volunteers, and county supervisors were instrumental in highlighting the need for increased resources for county trails. As a result of his advocacy, an additional \$325,000 in funding was secured, leading to a remarkable 400% increase in staffing levels starting in FY25!

FY25 TRAIL FUNDING

Occoquan Trail Equipment Expenditure \$99,286 FTE Positions 0.00

Description – This initiative provides funding for machinery and equipment that is required for the development of new trails and greenways in Occoquan Trail. This is a one-time cost of \$99,286 to procure machinery and capital equipment including vehicles for the Maintenance & Operations division to enhance capacity to extend support and ensure maintenance and operations of the developed trails & greenways.

Trail Maintenance Expenditure \$325,000 FTE Positions 3.00

Description – \$325,000 in ongoing maintenance dollars was approved to fund 3 additional maintenance positions for trails. This is for maintenance of existing trails and trail amenities and includes \$75,000 in additional service and supply funds.

STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENTS

Stewardship agreements create opportunities for enhanced features or amenities through partnering for maintenance either directly or indirectly maintaining the enhanced feature or service.

Existing Agreements:

Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE) – Locust Shade & Saving Grace Trail

Animal Education and Rescue Organization (AERO) – Meadow and Pollinator Garden Rollins Ford Park

Prince William Conservation Alliance (PWCA) – Natural Area Maintenance Veterans Park

VOLUNTEERS

- Trail Monitors:

Total of 303 Hours of Volunteer time over 1 year

435 miles inspected by volunteer monitors

- Adopt-a-Trail

23 Organizations Participated

291 Participants

435 Hours

55 Miles of trails cleaned and maintained

VOLUNTEERS!



VOLUNTEERS!



VOLUNTEERS!



VOLUNTEERS!



VOLUNTEERS!



PWDPR/TBC/TSC
We placed a culvert to mitigate poor
drainage. Used to be standing in water.
It is almost dry despite the snowmelt!!!

VOLUNTEERS!



Got MUD ?

Tracks on the ground, turn around!
STAY OFF the trails when wet or muddy!



USE ONLY WHEN DRY or FROZEN

Prevent trail damage and help protect our trails

For more information on freeze-thaw, winter riding, and membership and volunteer opportunities visit:

www.more-mtb.org



This trail system is maintained by MORE volunteers in cooperation with the local land/park authority

