

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

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November 15, 2022

MEETING OF THE POWHATAN COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION HELD ON NOVEMBER 15, 2022, AT 6:00 PM IN THE TRAINING ROOM OF THE POCAHONTAS LANDMARK CENTER TRAINING ROOM AT 4290 ANDERSON HIGHWAY IN POWHATAN VIRGINIA

**Commission Members Present:** Lance Elton, Vice Chair (left early)  
Ryan Cooke  
Josh Cabaniss  
Frank Flannagan

**Commission Members Absent:** Cameron Palmore, Chair

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Megan Heatwole, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Will Hagy, Deputy County Administrator  
Bob Benway, PCPS Representative  
Bobby Cook, Powhatan County Citizen  
Mason Cook, Powhatan County Citizen

**Non-Voting Members Absent:** None

**Special Guests:** Mike Oliver, Judy Cain-Oliver, Jayne Lloyd, Lynn LaPierre, Betty Ashmore, Anna Stone, Mike Svetz

**A. Call to Order**

- F. Flanagan called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. A quorum was established.

**B. Additions/ Changes to the Agenda**

- None

**C. Meeting Minutes**

- A motion to approve the October 10, 2022, meeting minutes was made by J. Cabaniss and seconded by R. Cooke. *Motion passed 4-0.*

**D. Citizen Comments**

- None

**E. Old Business**

- DISC Golf tees boxes will be updated over the winter.

**F. New Business**

Mike Svetz provided an overview of the Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment that the PRAC and PROS Consulting had worked on and completed together in 2020. This work included two surveys completed in May 2019. The online survey was developed in partnership with the County and was completed by 540 households representing 2,081 residents. The second survey was a statistically valid survey administered by mail/ phone/ web. This survey was completed by 421 respondents with a confidence coefficient of 95%. Responses indicate that residents see value in Parks and Recreation. Responses showed that residents are willing to support Parks and Recreation improvements with increased tax support. Responses also allowed the County to identify and prioritize Parks and

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Recreation related needs. The group also discussed Powhatan's aging population. The County's population is increasing aging and residents over the age of 55 will make up more and more of the total population. The group discussed the importance of insuring that active adults in the community are being served by County programs and services.

Commissioners and Community Members discussed this data in light of the BOS September 2022 request for data relating to the request for a Community Center in the County. A Community Center is identified in the data as a high priority facility need. Many of the high priority Program/ Service needs point to the need for more indoor recreation space in the County.

The group reached a consensus that the results of the Needs Assessment is data that identifies unmet Parks and Recreation related needs in Powhatan County, including the need for more indoor recreation space and, as a result, is important data to share with the Board of Supervisors.

Josh Cabaniss made a motion that the PRAC request an opportunity to meet with the Board of Supervisors to present and share the data the Commission has collected that identifies unmet Parks and Recreation needs in the County to assist the Board of Supervisors in considering a Community Center. Ryan Cooke seconded the motion. The group determined that the motion would go out to all the Commissioners in the form of an email poll so that absent members would be included.

#### G. Comments from the Commission

- Commissioners thanked members of the Senior Action Committee for attending tonight's meeting to discuss the need for a Community Center and active adult programs.

#### H. Upcoming Events

- Next PRAC Meeting: January 10, 2023, at 6PM.

#### I. Adjournment

- F. Flanagan moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.



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Cameron Palmore, Chairman

Date: 1/10/2023

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission



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William Hagy, Secretary

Date: 1/10/2023

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