

CHESAPEAKE PARKS, RECREATION AND TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2021

This meeting of the Parks, Recreation and Tourism Advisory Board was held on November 4, 2021, at the South Norfolk Community Center. Vice Chair Leedom called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Fuqua called the roll. Attendance did not reflect a quorum with only 8 voting members present and 8 voting members absent.

Members Present:	Donna Cannatella (non-voting ex-officio/CCC, Bryan Carey, Susan Dixon, Sandy Emery (non-voting Youth Liaison), Paula Faivre, Berkley Gibbs, Jean Holt, Bob Leedom (Vice-Chair), Chris Lowie (non-voting ex-officio/GDSNWR), Annette Kelley, and Patti McCambridge
Members Absent:	Christine Arrasate, Catina Bondhill, Jean Carideo (non-voting ex-officio/GBBWHF), Kevin Cole (non-voting ex-officio/CPS), Chelsea Hall, Jennifer Hoover (Chair), Lindy Huber, Julie Halsnoy, Neta Stephens, and Michael Williams
Staff Present:	Mike Barber, Monica Christiansen, Thurman Diamond, Kim Murden, Shawn Hopson, Megan Hale and Cori Fuqua

MINUTES:

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The October 7, 2021 meeting minutes were not approved by the board because there was not a quorum.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Mr. Reginald Cyrus, citizen, relayed his opinion that the high school stadium lights are substandard and are not bright enough during night use at football games. Mr. Barber said according to the Joint Use Agreement between Chesapeake Public Schools (CPS) and Parks, Recreation and Tourism (PRT), since PRT does not use the stadiums for its programs, CPS must handle all maintenance for stadium grounds and facilities, including lights. Mr. Barber will relay the concerns to CPS.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Megan Hale, the PRT program coordinator and department liaison to the CEIC (Chesapeake Environmental Improvement Council), gave a special presentation on environmental programs and overview of the CEIC, some of its programs, and its relationship with the department.

REPORTS:

a. Committee Reports:

- **Athletic Rules Committee** – None.
- **Tourism Committee** – None.

b. Ex-Officio Reports:

- **Great Bridge Battlefield & Waterways History Museum** – None.
- **Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge** – None.
- **Chesapeake Public Schools** – None.
- **Chesapeake Conference Center** – Ms. Cannatella reported on the following:
 - **Lunch with Chef** is on Fridays from 11:30am – 1:30pm. City employees (both current and retirees) are eligible for lunch pricing at \$10 permanently! For a group of 10 or more people, there is a group discount with lunch for \$10 each.
 - **Events and Promotions** – For a complete listing of upcoming events, visit our website. We have a full schedule and continuing to add events. The Friday Trivia Contest for a chance to win a Lunch With Chef is ongoing. Each month will feature different trivia questions about the Conference Center and the answers can be found on the website. Want to feature a special personal message on the Conference Center's LED marquis? For only \$50 it will run 24 hours for 3 days. It's usually \$250. We are looking for vendors for the Princess Ball in February. Full details on all events and promotions can be found on the website.

c. Tourism Report – Ms. Murden gave the following updates:

- **Restaurant Week** finished up October 22nd. This was the fifth year and this year we had the highest number of restaurant participants to date! We are in the process of receiving feedback but so far it's been very positive. Some recommendations received were to hold it in January/February but it's difficult to find a good time to have it when it's not competing with another city.
- **Fall Promotions** are winding down and we will be transitioning to our Peake Holiday promotions.

d. Parks and Recreation Reports

Director Updates and Department Reports:

- Mr. Barber gave the following updates:
 - **Park and Place Naming** – City Council renamed Courtyard Square Park next to City Hall to Judge Eileen A. Olds Courtyard Park. They also approved funding for a 18-20' high tower clock, marker and landscaping. Council also asked that the board consider another proposal for naming the lake at Oak Grove Lake Park Lake Claire after Claire Askew, a former department director that recently passed away. Next month there will be a more formal presentation. There is a city policy

as well as other guidelines that will be sent to the board prior to next month's meeting.

- **Department CIP Requests** were submitted, which included an aquatic center and an outdoor community pool, which are among Council's highest priorities; continued to include some regular maintenance funding and continuing baseball/softball lighting upgrades/replacements; also included was for refurbishment funding for the Sunray building.
- **Historical Services** – the Cornland School roof installation was completed.
- **Operating Budget** is due right before Thanksgiving. We've been asked to work on a baseline of 97.5% of last year's budget but that will not adversely affect services or maintenance efforts.
- **Events** –
 - **Holiday Craft Show** – weekend of November 20th and 21st at the Conference Center.
 - **Deck the Hall** – Begins Thanksgiving weekend (November 25th) and will be on nightly through January 2nd. There will also be two separate event nights (December 11th and 18th) featuring carolers, goats and Santa, and vendors will be serving donuts, hot chocolate and coffee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **2022 Officer Nomination Slate** – Ms. Holt presented the slate from the nominating committee which is Bob Leedom for Chairman and Annette Kelley for Vice Chairman. The vote will take place at next month's meeting as long as there is a quorum present.

HEARING OF BOARD MEMBERS:

- Ms. Faivre said that the work done at the Deep Creek baseball fields looks awesome. Is the press box not under PRT purview to fix up? Mr. Barber said no, that falls under CPS and thinks they have plans to demolish it.
- Mr. Gibbs asked about the timeline for the lighting of the giant flag at City Park. Mr. Barber said that we're waiting on the contractor to get the backordered lights delivered but landscaping likely should be done first. The Jubilee Fall Craft Show is November 6th at City Park and the Kiwanis Club is doing the food.
- Ms. Kelley went to Deep Creek Park for a baseball game and she asked if there were any issues with the field and her niece said that the bathrooms there were cleaner than the ones in her school! Ms. Kelly also suggested that the City hold a scarecrow contest where businesses can pay to set up a display and the public can vote on them. It would be a nice fundraiser or the money could go toward prize money for the business to donate to a charity.
- Ms. McCambridge gave kudos to Donna and the Conference Center. She is working very hard and does a great job. The historical photos are going up and look beautiful.

- Mr. Leedom listened to Ms. Murden's podcast on Paddle for the Peake and thought it was very well done and informative.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 2, 2021, at 6:30 pm at the Dr. Clarence V. Cuffee Community Center, 2019 Windy Road.

Minutes submitted by Cori Fuqua, Secretary