



**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Date: Thursday, August 4, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Community Development Building Multipurpose Room**

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Members**

<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>DISTRICT</b>	<b>STANDING COMMITTEES</b>
Brenda White Vaughn, Chair	Bermuda District	Athletic Activities Committee Future Visions Outreach & Greenways
Raymond Marsh	Matoaca District	Athletic Activities Committee Future Visions Outreach & Greenways
Robert McCurry	Midlothian District	Athletic Activities Committee
William "Billy" Pipp	Matoaca District	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**

Cathy Cheely, Vice-Chair	Bermuda District	Capital Projects Committee Future Visions Outreach & Greenways
John Simpson	Midlothian District	Athletic Activities Committee Capital Projects Committee
Shayne McDavid	Clover Hill District	Capital Projects Committee Future Visions Outreach & Greenways
Jason Brown	Clover Hill District	Athletic Activities Committee Future Visions Outreach & Greenways
David Glass	School Board Representative	Athletic Activities Committee Capital Projects Committee

**Parks and Recreation Liaisons/County Staff**

**Present:**

- Neil Luther, Director, Primary Liaison, Parks and Recreation
- Marlaine Creasey-Smith, Assistant Director, Recreation, Primary Liaison Athletic Activities, Future Visions Outreach & Greenways Committee
- Stuart Connock, Jr., Assistant Director, Planning & Construction Services, Primary Liaison, Capital Projects and Future Visions Outreach & Greenways Committee
- Stan Thorne, Assistant Director, Parks, Primary Liaison Parks, Capital Projects, Future Visions Outreach & Greenways Committee
- Bill Carlson, Athletics Manager, Liaison Athletic Activities, Capital Projects Committee
- Karen Robinson, Administrative Analyst, Parks & Recreation

**Speaker (s) or Guests Present:**

**Subject/Organization**

Rick Black	Pickleball
Linda Scott	Pickleball
Chris Cappiello	CTC Hull Dog Park
Roland Stokes	Cogbill Park
Linda O'Neill	CTC Hull Dog Park

Stephanie Segien	CTC Hull Dog Park
Patricia Clark	CTC Hull Dog Park
Jackie Keenan	Pickleball
Bethany Bryans	CTC Hull Dog Park
Lou Lippa	Beulah Athletic Association
Cassandra Goodhough	CTC Hull Dog Park
Monica Muller	CTC Hull Dog Park
Patty Gjerulff	CTC Hull Dog Park

**🦋 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.

**Meeting Procedures:**

The meeting was held in-person and opportunities for those that desired to speak were given.

- I. **Call PRAC Meeting to Order:** Brenda White Vaughn welcomed the Virtual assembly at 6:01 p.m. with a quorum present.
- II. **Non-Sectarian Invocation:** The invocation was given by Bob Terrell.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Neil Luther led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- IV. **Approval of the PRAC Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2022:**  
  - 🌿 A motion was made to approve the May 5, 2022, minutes by Raymond Marsh with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Terrell. 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>
- V. **Amendments to the Agenda:** Neil Luther made a request for one amendment to add the 2022 Bond Referendum update to the New Business portion of the agenda
- VI. **Old Business:** (staff or presenter responses are in italics)  
  - 🌿 **Update** - CTC Hull Dog Park - Stan Thorne - improvements will be taking place next week. Water service will be improved, automatic troughs will be installed, above-ground, frost-proof hydrant will be relocated, and stone dust will be added to assist with drainage.
    - Brenda White asked if the troughs being installed at CTC Hull will also be installed at the Goyne Dog Park. Stan Thorne - no
- VII. **New Business:**  
  - 🌿 **2022 Bond Referendum** - Neil Luther gave an update on the 2022 bond referendum. Five projects totaling \$38.2 million will be completed if the referendum is passed.
    - William Pipp -Where within Horner Park will improvements be placed? - Neil Luther - in the back of the park past the shop
    - Raymond Marsh - when will Dominion do their part on our facilities? - Neil Luther - The department is already working with Dominion
    - A member of the public asked Neil to confirm the location where Falling Creek enters the James River. Neil did so.
    - A member of the public stated her wish to have a dog park installed at Horner Park - Neil Luther - we will take note of that
    - Linda Scott asked if there were any plans to construct pickleball courts at Horner Park - Neil Luther - the focus will be on softball and a community park and he understands the demand for pickleball courts

- A member of the public asked if the county has considered building public pools - Neil Luther - the Board of Supervisors has decided that the county will stay out of the public pool business

X. **Parks and Recreation Director Updates:**

- Night rover staff was recognized for excellence at the last BOS meeting
- Program guide will be virtual with limited printed copies
- Summer camps are winding down
- Over 12,000 attended the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration
- Preparations are underway for the County Fair which runs August 26 - September 3
- Mobile app similar to Yelp that will help citizens search for playgrounds, courts, etc is in development with rollout expected in 2023

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

**Planning and Construction Staff Report:** Stuart Connock - **Construction Project Status Report** will now be released bimonthly, call Stuart or his staff with any questions; **Master Plan** public survey to be released in January 2023; **Greenwood properties update** - 38 acres total, will open in the next couple of years and will merge with the Fall Line Trail. Members of the public and Raymond Marsh asked Stuart to clarify the location of the trail; Stuart updated the group on Dominion's efforts to mitigate impact to Parks and Recreation site access due to **coal ash removal**.

- **Robert McCurry** - How is the expansion of Midlothian High fields going? Neil Luther - full athletic complex plan for that site is in discussion, Stuart Connock - might try to tie high school and middle school complexes together.
- **Robert McCurry** - What is the status of the headstock at Mid-Lothian Mines Park? Stuart Connock - It is down and we have the funds to rebuild it, working to get developer to transfer land to Parks and Recreation.
- **Robert McCurry** - What is the status of the athletic lighting for Huguenot Park and other complexes in the district? Stuart Connock - HLL fields were re-lamped, looking at light levels and determining how to relight older complexes.
- **Bob Terrell** - Where within Daniel Park is the fitness equipment located? Stuart Connock - near the picnic area by the trail at the Softball Nation entrance.
- **Rueben Turner** confirmed that the fitness equipment at Daniel Park is being used by adults.
- **Sherman Litton** - Will the football field at Bird High School be converted to turf? Stuart Connock - yes.
- **Roland Stokes** - Noticed zoning change signs near Cogbill Park. What is the change? Stuart Connock - simply means the site plan is being examined and there is no zoning change. The county is required to notify adjacent property owners when a development plan is in progress.
- **Linda Scott** - Is there any update on the status of pickleball courts at Dodd and Huguenot Parks? Stuart Connock - waiting on vendor to fit into their schedule, Neil Luther - likely Spring 2023.
- **Roland Stokes** - Is there any intention of including a splash pad or pool in the Cogbill Park master plan? Stuart Connock - yes, there is a plan for a splash pad. If enough citizens want pool resources to be made available, they should talk to their BOS member. BOS appropriates funding and supports splash/spray pads but not pools.
- **Lou Lippa** - What about the wave pool being built near River City Sportsplex? Stuart Connock - that is a privately funded development
- **Sherman Litton** - Who will be able to use the turf fields at the high schools? Stuart Connock - schools will have priority use, Parks and Recreation will have second priority, then other groups, funding was surplus \$4 million
- **Lou Lippa** - Will turf be installed at Meadowbrook? Stuart Connock - first two sites are part of a pilot program. If they are successful other schools will get turf installed.
- A member of the public requested a street light be installed at CTC Hull Dog Park and was concerned about restroom access being restricted when the gates are locked. Stuart Connock - school staff are locking the facility, he will talk to schools about this issue
- A member of the public expressed concern that the water source at CTC Hull Dog Park is cut off when the irrigation system is off and there is no water for the dogs. Will new water access be connected to the irrigation system? Stan Thorne - water sources should be different and we will look into this issue.
- **Roland Stokes** - Good job with the drone park

- **Chris Cappiello** - Expressed concern that herbicide is being used at dog parks and that dogs may unwittingly ingest herbicide. Stan Thorne - there is a process we use to close and reopen facilities after spraying and all staff are licensed to spray, all products are used according to specifications. We will look at alternatives. Neil Luther - we use glyphosate, we will make adjustments inside fence lines at dog parks.
- A member of the public noted that the small dog side of the CTC Hull Dog Park is unusable due to drainage issues. Stan Thorne - we will replace gravel and explore options to address drainage issues.
- **Chris Cappiello** - Who was on the design committee for dog parks? Stan Thorne - each park had public meeting and comment periods to allow for citizen input.
- A member of the public suggested the shade structure at CTC Hull Dog Park be moved. Stan Thorne - we will investigate moving it.
- A member of the public proposed that shallow containers be left in dog parks for two months out of the year due to the heat. Brenda White - if you would like to further discuss dog park issues please make sure your contact information is on the sign-in sheet so we can meet with you to discuss.

🌱 **Parks Staff Report:** Stan Thorne - there have been operational changes and the Athletics section has been moved to the Parks Division and the Athletic Fields Crew is now under Bill Carlson; River City Sportsplex operations are now under District 5; reclassified River City Sportsplex supervisor position to site supervisor position to oversee River City Sportsplex staff; school preparedness is in full swing and park managers are meeting with school principals; Bensley field to open in September for limited use.

🌱 **Recreation Staff Report:** Marlie Creasey-Smith - just wrapped up summer camps with an increase in participation over 2021; fall program registration opens this month; Rockwood Nature Center reopened after renovations, welcoming over 3,600 visitors in the five weeks since reopening; Chesterfield After Hours concerts are being held at River City Sportsplex instead of the Fairgrounds this year, with the number of concerts increasing from 3 last year to 7 this year. Attendance has been between 1,500 - 2,500 each concert and the department is conducting ticket giveaways to the public and staff.

**XII. Public Comments on Unscheduled Matters: To Be Read by the Chair:** 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

🌱 **Rick Black** - Pickleball Court Allocation - the league is being underserved and needs additional courts to use. Neil Luther indicated that the department is obligated to keep courts available for pickleball players who prefer to play outside of the league because they are public courts.

🌱 **Jackie Keenan** - Pickleball Court Allocation - Why couldn't the league use one facility and keep others open to the public - Neil Luther - citizens should be able to play at their preferred location, we do recognize a need for more courts and realize that due to the nature of the sport, just one or two additional courts is not enough. We'll keep collecting data and reassessing needs.

🌱 **Lou Lippa** - Beulah Athletic Association - stepping down as president of Beulah Athletic Association, new president will be Felicia Abreyu, trying to build the association up. Merging with Bensley and Bellwood for basketball and will be called Three B's. Struggling to find equipment for football team. Will keep Bill apprised of field rental situation.

🌱 **Linda Scott** - Pickleball - Pickleball Club of Chesterfield County has donated three AED's installed at each pickleball facility. Monday is National Pickleball Day and if you're interested in a free clinic, contact Linda.

**XIII. Committee Reports :** No Committee(s) Report

**XIV. Commission Roundtable Discussions:** (Park Champion Briefs)

🌱 **Raymond Marsh** - citizen turnout was great for the July 28 concert at River City Sportsplex

🌱 **Rob McCurry** - no comments

🌱 **Rueben Turner** - no comments

🌱 **Billy Pipp** - no comments

- 🌱 **Bob Terrell** - no comments
- 🌱 **Marlaine Creasey-Smith** - no comments
- 🌱 **Stuart Connock** - no comments
- 🌱 **Stan Thorne** - no comments
- 🌱 **Bill Carlson** - no comments
- 🌱 **Neil Luther** - no further comments
- 🌱 **Karen Robinson** - thanks for the warm welcome as new PRAC liaison
- 🌱 **Brenda White Vaughn** - County fair is August 26 - September 3, 8/27 is public safety day, 8/30 is international day, Sunday is military day, Thursday is a giver night, Wednesday night is the power wheels derby, lots of new attractions this year.

XV. **Recommendation of Agenda Items for the September 8, 2022 In-Person Meeting:**

- 🌱 Update - VCU Survey and Parks & Recreation Master Plan Survey - Janit Llewellyn
- 🌱 Dog Park Update - Stan Thorne

XVI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Robinson, Administrative Analyst, Parks & Recreation. **The next PRAC meeting will be at 6:00 on Thursday, September 8, 2022 - In-Person at the Community Development Building . (No meetings held in June or July unless needed).**