

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
COUNTY OF YORK, VIRGINIA
REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting Convened. A regular meeting of the York County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) was called to order at approximately 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 19, 2009.

Attendance. The following members of the PRAB were present: Ms. Sharon Kline, Mr. Stephen Roth, Mr. Jack Christie, Mr. Bill Euker and Mr. James Elder. Ms. Donna Simkins was absent. Staff present was Ms. Cheryl Sonderman and Mr. Brian Fuller.

Consideration of Minutes. The minutes of the January 29, 2009 meeting were approved.

Athletic Field Needs Analysis Update. Mr. Euker led discussion about updating the Athletic Field Needs Analysis Report that was completed in 2001. Ms. Sonderman indicated that the effort to update the County's Comprehensive Plan update will not begin until 2011 and that there is interest in localities in the region to all be on the same timeline for updating their Comprehensive Plans. There was also consensus that it would be good to have at least a full year of operation of the Sports Complex in order to assess the impact the new fields had on the overall needs for fields throughout the County.

There was also interest in exploring the benefits of synthetic turf and whether or not retrofitting existing grass fields with synthetic turf could significantly reduce the need for additional fields. Ms. Sonderman offered to arrange a site visit to the Warhill Sports Complex and meet with James City County officials about their experience with synthetic turf fields in May.

Proposed FY2010 Budget Overview. Ms. Sonderman reported that the County is on target to approve the FY2010 budget on April 14th. The Parks and Recreation budget included full funding for operation of the Sports Complex as well as eliminating or reducing service levels of some programs. The Capital Improvement Program has also been delayed a year, a hiring freeze is in place and employees will not receive any raises.

Sports Complex Construction Update. Mr. Fuller led a tour of the Sports Complex prior to the meeting. The complex is still on target to open with light play in mid-April and consideration for scheduling the Grand Opening Ceremony is being given for sometime in May.

Bikeways/Greenways Update. Ms. Sonderman reported that the initial cost estimate for the planned bikeway/greenway project was \$800,000 and that the County does not have this amount of money budgeted for the project at this time. Ms. Parker will be

conducting an inventory of the wetlands area so a more accurate budget for bridges needed to cross the wetlands can be determined.

Executive Fact Sheet. The PRAB reviewed the draft prepared by Mr. Euker and made some minor revisions. Mr. Euker received approval from Mr. Shepperd for distribution at the Yorktown and Tabb libraries, the YMCA, the Parks and Recreation Office and on the Parks and Recreation website.

New PRAB Member. Mr. Sewell Rowley was appointed to the PRAB by the Board of Supervisors on March 17th.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.