

April 28, 2023

TO: SMITHFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

FROM: LESLEY G. KING
TOWN CLERK

SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL REPORT FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 24TH, 2023

The Parks and Recreation Committee held a meeting on Monday, April 24th, 2023, at 4:21 p.m. at the Smithfield Center located at 220 North Church Street, Smithfield Virginia. Committee members attending were Mrs. Renee Rountree, Chair; and Mr. Jeffrey Brooks. Other Council members present were Mr. Wayne Hall, Mr. Michael Smith, and Mr. Steven G. Bowman, Mayor. Staff members present were Mr. Michael Stallings, Town Manager; Mr. William H. Riddick, III, Town Attorney; Ms. Lesley King, Town Clerk; Mr. Jay Hunemuller, Interim Treasurer; Ms. Ashley Rogers, Director of Human Resources; Mr. Jack Reed, Director of Engineering and Public Works; Mr. Wayne Griffin, Town Engineer; Mrs. Tammie Clary, Director of Community Development and Planning; Ms. Amy Novak, Director of Parks and Recreation; and Mr. Steve Clark, Parks and Rec Department. Also in Attendance were Mr. Randolph Barlow, Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Harris, Mr. Tim Dean of TRC (formerly Draper Aden Associates). There was no media represented.

Parks and Recreation Committee Chair, Mrs. Renee Rountree, called the meeting to order.

A. MATTERS DISCUSSED BY COMMITTEE WHICH WILL NOT BE ON COUNCIL'S AGENDA.

1. Operational Updates – Councilwoman Rountree stated that she would like to see the Parks and Recreation Committee on the agenda every month to allow Ms. Novak an opportunity to explain what is going on in Parks and Rec. She explained that Town Council's Vision for 2035 really highlights Parks and Recs and the amenities we would like to see here in Town in the future. She would like to see us talking about these things monthly. Some of the things in the Town Council's Vision was walking trails, discussion on whether we are going to have a modern sports complex and if so, what all can and needs to go there. Does this mean getting active on a citizen survey to figure out what should go there like we did with the Long Leaf Pine project. She stated that when she spoke to the Town Manager earlier today on the Luter Sports Complex and what all was

going to go there he stated that it was tabled when we lost the anonymous donor. It is her opinion that we should move forward with determining what it is going to be. We need to have discussions on how to capture the people that come to town to use the Luter Sports Complex and figure out what wows them about our Town. Councilwoman Rountree also stated that in the Vision for 2035 it states that we are going to have great programming for seniors. She stated that for next month she would also like to talk with Ms. Winslow on where the revenues from vendors fees goes.

Ms. Novak stated that recently a Long Leaf Pine meeting was held with Old Dominion University. Mr. Henry McBurney who has led the charge with all the long leaf pine areas we have at Windsor Castle Park. There are over 1,000 trees in all states of growth over 9 acres at the park. Some are maintained with grass underneath them, and some are part of a prescribed burn. Mr. McBurney's concern is that this is his legacy, and he is not going to be here forever. He would like to see some follow through and had reached out to Old Dominion University who already manages the Blackwater long leaf pine area. His hope is that their research program would take an interest in the long leaf pines here at Windsor Castle Park and use it as their field study. This would be a group that would tell the Town when it is time to do a prescribed burn and when it is time to do the underscoring. Ms. Novak stated that her staff does not have the expertise and knowledge about growing the long leaf pine project. At this meeting with Old Dominion University the Town Manager and Ms. Novak asked what the Town needs to do to make this a formal partnership. Mr. Planders of Old Dominion University stated he would take the proposed partnership back to their Dean and is hopeful that they will agree to partner with the Town of Smithfield. Ms. Novak stated that she would follow up with them moving forward. Ms. Novak reported that the kayak self-service kiosk unfortunately will not come to us until June. This is still a great time to open because by then the water temperatures will be a little warmer. Ms. Novak also explained that there is a Nurse Practitioner in the area, and she wants to start a walk with a doc program at Windsor Castle Park. The closest one around is currently in Williamsburg. Once a month one of our doctors or physicians will do a 20-minute seminar on a current health topic and then you walk the trail with them, and you can ask them questions while getting exercise at the same time. The program itself will not cost anything for participants; however, it will cost the nurse practitioner \$650 to start the program here at Windsor Castle Park. It is a national program and already has the framework in place for things such as insurance. She may come to Town Council to request partial funding of the \$650 to support this program. It is planned to start in July.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.