

Detailed Summary of the Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting Transcript

The RAC meeting, held on September 16, 2025, at 6:00 PM at Central High School (CHS). Attendees included RAC members Laverne Johnson (at-large), Carrie Monger (at-large), Larry Proffit (District 3), Brandi Sims (District 4), Angelia Miller (Parks and Recreation), and Tom Cocke (Parks and Recreation Director), Betsy Wright (Western District).

Departmental Report (Tom Cocke)

- **Budget:**
 - Fiscal Year 2025 Closeout: Parks and Recreation managed funds well despite internal county finance issues that forced early spending freeze; leaving minor unspent balances on grounds side.
 - FY27 budget merger of grounds and recreation lines approved, providing year-round flexibility (e.g., shifting funds between sides).
- **Facilities:**
 - **Concession Stand Trailer (GSC):** Moved to new concrete pad; power, potable/non-potable water, and sewer connected. One minor \$20 electrical panel part to replace; Virginia Department of Health inspection scheduled for Thursday (September 18). Hood and fire suppression systems have already tested/passed. Angelia Miller and Joe Razzano earned food manager certification; GYAA holds certification for volunteer operations. Trailer ready for GYAA homecoming (October 4) and county events (e.g., concerts, emergency response, Santa Calling).
 - **Central High School Track:** Grounds crew addressed runoff, debris, and fitness area weeds/mulch per resident complaint; lightly dragged and flattened surface. Southern States cattle gates (left 1 year) requested for removal; may repurpose if unclaimed.
 - **Hidden Rock Park:** New forestry-grant-funded chairs/tables installed at dog park; adding gravel/stone dust to complete project. Disc golf course bridges complete (Eagle Scout projects); course expansion to 18 holes ongoing. Two of three Eagle Scout projects finished; third (picnic tables) near completion—will present all scouts to Board of Supervisors. High school CTE program building concrete tee pads/baskets; forestry grant savings may contribute.
 - **Old Elementary School Field:** Upgraded entrances (Route 6 and NAPA); new fencing/gates installed by Carl for EMS/vendor/pedestrian access during events (Fall Festival, Ag Fair).

- **Forestry Grant (\$98,000):** Trash cans installed; picnic tables delivered (assembly in progress); pet waste stations arrived (installation pending). Remaining projects (volleyball/basketball courts at Hidden Rock, bike pump track at Leakes Mill) delayed maximizing savings for additional items (e.g., high school disc golf aid). Farmers Market picnic tables were ordered but delayed due to storage constraints.
- **Traffic Counters:** Upgraded to infrared readers; planning placement at Ag Fair gates and old elementary school (special events site) to track foot traffic.
- **Events:**
 - Nights at Tucker: (Blair West, September 26)
 - VA 250 5K (Elk Hill, Parks assists)
 - Fall Festival (September 25, elementary field)
 - Trick-or-Treat at Admin
 - Tucker Turkey Trot (new 2-mile walk/run on gravel trail, stroller-friendly)
 - Holiday Market (year 2)
 - Tree Lighting (December 5)
 - Santa Calling (December 11, 6–8 PM)
 - **Christmas Tree:** 50-ft pre-lit/decorated LED panel tree ordered (\$90,000 CIP); vendor installs/takes down (additional cost offset by ending \$9,000 annual erection fee). Includes 7-ft Santa bench and 7-ft lighted “Happy Holidays Goochland Parks and Recreation” wreath photo prop. Delivery by October 31; on-site supervision for setup/breakdown provided for 2 years. Storage solution TBD (conditioned space preferred; exploring Conex or county garage).
- **Grounds:**
 - Fall sports in full swing (GYAA baseball/softball/football/cheer; GUSA soccer at Leakes Mill).
 - Terminating Cintas uniform contract (October); reallocating funds for staff-selected apparel (pants arrived; logoed shirts/hats/jackets/boots/gloves provided).
 - Finalizing winter project list (ditch work at Leakes Mill, signage removal at elementary school, indoor/outdoor tasks).
 - Bus garage trees planted (Community Development project; Parks monitors warranty/watering).
 - Goochland Recreation Center (separate entity): Assisted field rejuvenation (Luck Stone donated infield mix; Parks provided labor/equipment/bases). Lawson's Fencing aiding perimeter: Rotary Club donated \$5,000 for concession stand. Friendly softball game (November 1) planned to celebrate reactivation.

- **Staffing/Overtime:**
 - Tom (78.5 hours), Angelia (39 hours), another staff (37 hours) driven by 30 annual special events (e.g., Ag Fair 4-day setup/1-day breakdown; fireworks to 2 AM). County leadership is receptive to adding bodies to prevent burnout/mistakes; budget discussions start October.

Old Business

- **Wall of Fame:** Mary Beth Browning ceremony held September 4, 2025, 5:00–6:00PM. Speech delivered (slightly off-script but well-received); weekly thank-you emails from honoree.

New Business

- **FY27 Budget Process:** Starts October; needs-based (justify personnel, equipment, supplies). Draft CIPs in progress; budget merger directive confirmed.
- **Bylaws Review:** Members to review annually (provided copy); propose changes by November meeting. Josh Gillespie (Deputy County Administrator) reviewing for recommendations.
- **Organizational Changes:** Josh Gillespie now oversees Parks and Recreation (plus Animal Control, Human Services, Community Affairs, GIS); Sarah Worley oversees Economic/Community Development.
- **Farmers Market:** Part-time manager Sarah Soldat resigned due to serious medical issues (bed rest). Powhatan County (employer) posting position; Angelia spearheading final 2 weeks.
- **Chair/Vice Chair Election:** Betsy Wright vacated; Brandy Sims nominated/recommended for Chair (unanimous vote after exit/discussion—praised for passion/attendance). Vice Chair discussion tabled (multiple volunteers; leadership continuity noted).
 - **Vacant Seat:** Current structure: Western/Central/Eastern + 3 at-large (6 total). Vacancy likely District 5 (Manakin/Route 6 area) or at-large. Bylaws discussion: consider formal application process (post publicly, RAC reviews/recommends to Board of Supervisors); weigh district vs. at-large representation, geographic equity, tiebreakers. Defer action until November bylaws finalization.