

**AGENDA
WORK SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010
6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Library Meeting Room

1. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board



830 Poquoson Avenue Poquoson Virginia 23662

757-868-3580 Fax 757-868-3585

Memorandum

January 21, 2010

TO: City Council

FROM: Dave Callis, Parks, Recreation & Events Director

SUBJ: Work Session with Poquoson Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

In advance of the January 25, 2010 Work Session, please find the attached materials submitted for your review and consideration from the Poquoson Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Included in the deliverables is a **Vision Document** outlining the Advisory Board's recommendation for the future of Parks & Recreation in Poquoson with respect to Parks and indoor/outdoor facilities. Among the suggestions provided in these areas:

Indoor/Outdoor Recreational Facilities

- construction of a Community/Fitness Center
- improvement of playing surface on selected fields and continued maintenance of others
- installation of a Skateboard Park west of Poquoson Ave. & Little Florida Rd.

Parks

- refurbishment of Kid's Island, to increase its utility and reduce vandalism
- establishment of a Public Park in the Western Precinct
- construction of a picnic shelter at Messick Park Playground

Water-Related Amenities

- recreational fishing pier at Messick Point
- the location of a public boat ramp in the Western Precinct of the City
- establishment of a Blue Way system for kayak/canoe access and use
- boat ramp repairs at Cedar Rd. & Hunts Neck Rd.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is pleased to discuss these areas of the Vision Document and others at City Council's discretion and welcomes their input and guidance as the Advisory Board moves forward in its efforts to promote recreational opportunities for Poquoson residents.

The Poquoson Parks & Recreation Advisory Board looks forward to meeting with City Council on January 25, 2010 and is pleased to provide additional information as needed.

January 15, 2010

City of Poquoson
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
830 Poquoson Avenue
Poquoson, VA 23662

The Poquoson City Council
500 City Hall Avenue
Poquoson, Virginia 23662

Honorable Members of the City Council,

As the chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, I would like to express our gratitude that you are making the time to discuss the future of parks and recreation in the city of Poquoson at your upcoming work session. Our hopes are that one of your intentions is to discuss your desires to have us follow up on your request which was put in the 2008 to 2028 Comprehensive Plan. The statement to which I am referring is:

“The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board has recently approved a Vision Document for the future of the City’s parks and recreational sites. This plan recommends that a Long Range Plan be developed that will identify additional areas for parks, recreational sites, water access and the funding to achieve such desires.”

Our board would like to commend City Staff and the Planning Commission for their effort in developing a comprehensive plan that address most of the needs of the city for several years into the future. We are concerned that matters such as zoning issues, waterfront development, high density development, environmental issues, etc. were of such a high degree of importance that the Planning Commission in the limited amount of time that was available in the end of the process was not able to fully address the long term planning needs relating to Parks and Recreation.

Our hopes are that you will allow us to start with Chapter 6, Section 2 of the existing Comprehensive plan, and along with our long range vision document and advice from you as well as the Planning Commission to develop a long range plan that can be included in the Comprehensive plan as an amendment which would replace Chapter 6, Section 2.

As a reminder of our thoughts and concerns regarding the matter we have attached the material that was provided to the planning commission in December of 2008 as well as a copy of the letter that we provided to you last September.

We look forward to meeting with you on the 25th and hope that we can continue to serve you, the city and all of the city residents to provide leadership and guidance relating Parks and Recreation into the future.

Sincerely


Nikki Mas'sey

Chairman, Poquoson Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

cc. Randy Wheeler
Dave Callis

Parks and Recreation Board Vision for Comprehensive Plan

Indoor facilities

New indoor facility (Number one long term goal.)

Between 40,000 and 80,000 square feet depending on funding source and amount.

Must

- Gym
- Dedicated teen facility with pool table, games, etc.
- Extra meeting rooms for adult/youth classes, etc.
- Exercise room
- Staff offices

Like

- Weight room
- Racquet ball courts
- Pool
- Tennis courts
- Indoor track
- More multipurpose rooms

Funding a combination of donations, grants, loans and city tax dollars to be determined before the project begins construction.

Parks

Complete South Lawson Park (Stated for field completion in 2010)

- *This will provide additional multi-purpose fields and park area for general public use.*

Purchase between 5 and 10 acres of land and build a park West of Yorktown Road.

- Identify potential parcels and ask the City Manager to approach the owners regarding the potential sale of their property.
- Ask the City Manager to investigate potential sources of funding and to seek approval from City Council for pursuing such.
- Once the land is purchased develop a plan for it as a general park, with a picnic shelter walking area, and some type of youth sports field.

Improve existing parks

- Upgrade Kids Island with a focus on opening the park up for better visibility of facilities.
 - Replace entrance tunnel and ‘fort’ with shaded areas with park benches, etc.
 - Upgrade substandard playground equipment with better quality equipment.
 - Review other upgrades to improve ease of maintenance.
- Add picnic shelter to Messick Road Park.
- Upgrade/replace playground equipment at various parks as necessary.
- Contact DGIF regarding a stocking program for retention pond at Oxford Run trail to improving potential fishing opportunities.

Baseball Fields

- Improve surfaces at the unlighted T-Ball field in area across from Women’s Center
- Maintain existing fields.
- Evaluate the need for soccer fields to determine if another softball field should be built at Phillips Park once Lawson field is complete.

Skate Board Park

- *Find a place west of the intersection of Poquoson Ave and Little Florida Road for the skate board park.*
- *Make it operational when practicable*

Sidewalks/Bike Trails

(Citizen Sidewalk Committee is currently working on a proposed plan for City Council review in Spring, 2010)

- *Establish adequate system of sidewalks or bike paths on the main streets (in prioritized order)*
 - *Little Florida Road*
 - *Victory Blvd to City Hall*
 - *Odd Road*
 - *Poquoson Ave. complete sidewalk between Wythe Creek and Little Florida Road*
 - *Yorktown Road*
 - *The remainder of Wythe Creek Road*
 - *Hunts Neck Road*
 - *Browns Neck Road*
 - *Pasture Road*
 - *Between Hunts Neck Road and Michelle’s Landing (using the city right of way near Robert’s Landing)*

Water Related

Blue Way (Parks & Recreation Department will seek funding through Virginia Trails Fund, USF & WLS and Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund as directed)

- Messick Point - Add sand and modify riprap on right hand side of boat ramp to provide a small boat landing area.
- Messick Point – Add (low to the water) floating dock and ramp adjacent to wave screen for kayak, canoe access.
- Clear non-permitted private bridges over creek.
- Add Portage spots at city road over creek.
- Add interpretative signs.
- Add stopover areas at Cow Island and on Plumb Tree (Must have concurrence of Fish and Wildlife service.)
- Provide appropriate improvements to Cedar Rd, Poquoson, Ave, Hunts Neck Rd ramps as they are part of the Blue Way such that small boats can be launched/retrieved without fear of damage.

West End Boat Ramp

- Identify and purchase land for a Class A boat ramp and 35 to 50 parking spots that will service Bennett's Creek, Whitehouse Cove and Poquoson River.
- Design and build a boat ramp, parking area and associated amenities for the boat ramp.
- Funding up to 100% Recreational Fishing Improvement Fund (RFIF) Grant. The balance tax dollars.

Messick Point boat ramp/park (Messick Point Pier and Beach Committee is currently developing deliverables for a grant application to VMRC for pier funding consideration.

Further, the committee intends to develop a beach concept as well)

- *Funding for fishing pier at Messick Point Back Cove Approx. 400-600 foot pier with a 50 to 75 ft T-head. Must determine depth profile and insure that end of pier is in 6 feet of water at mean low tide.*
- *Funding for expansion of Messick Point boat ramp parking by 50 to 75 spots (RFIF 100% funding)*
- *Investigate concept of sand for beach area on back cove (Dredge material from Back River Channel?).*

WATER RELATED-CONTINUED

Improvements to small boat ramps (Note: these ramps are part of the blue way plan)

Ramp repairs/improvements (MUST)

- Cedar road – install new ramp
- Hunts Neck Road – Extend ramp out about two feet, add more sand on left hand side of ramp so that sandy area extends out with ramp.
- Poquoson Ave. – Improve the ramp as necessary.

Improved access (SHOULD)

- Add Park a bench adjacent to each of the ramps.
- Cedar Road – install low to the water floating dock and ramp.
- Improve Parking at Hunts Neck Road.

Improved access (LIKE)

- Poquoson Ave – Install a small fixed L-head pier for launching boats, fishing and crabbing.
- Hunts Neck Road – Install low to the water floating dock and access ramp.