

Virginia Recreation and Park Society

Central Service Area Meeting – March 20, 2025 Central High Cultural and Educational Complex 2748 Dogtown Road Goochland, VA 23063 Minutes

Attendees: Jessie Honaker, Alyssa Ferguson, Marlie Smith, Kimberly Turner, Paul Wilmoth, Aaron Reidmiller, Fannie Giquere, Allison Zuchowski, Kate Cutshall, Carl Lacy, Joe Razzano, Angelia Miller, Hannah Salmon, Tori O'Neill, Jessica Taylor, Rebecca Johnson, Sureatha McGhee, Charles Hester, Karen Gray, and Tom Cocke

Business Meeting

Meeting called to order.

Introductions

Minutes:

Minutes from the December meeting was shared and reviewed. Moved and second to approve the minutes from the December 2024 meeting. Voting for minutes approved.

VRPS Updates:

Play All Day VA will be June 20th. Register by April 1st and we need 7 more agencies to register to meet the goal of 50 so please encourage registration.

VRPS conference will be in Roanoke October 26-29. May 9th is the award deadline. Stay tuned for a call for session proposals and registration.

For resource groups, senior resource group's next meeting will be virtual on April 10 at 2pm,

therapeutic resource group's next meeting will be virtual on March 25 and 11 am,

health and wellness resource group's next meeting will be virtual on March 26 and 1 pm, the

WSA Turf Management Workshop will be on April 23 from 9 am – 2:30 pm at Smithland Athletic Conference, and Summer Survival will be May 31 from 8:30 am – 3 pm

LTI will be April 2026 at Wintergreen Resort. Registration is opening this summer.

CSA Board Updates:

Karen: no additional funds have been raised since the last meeting

Jessie: locations and upcoming events to be posted on the website, if you need to contact anyone on the board that information is on the CSA page.

The next meeting will be at Rockwood Nature Center in Chesterfield on May 22nd from 2-4pm

Kimberly Turner: Director's conference will be in April in Fredericksburg. Information is on the VRPS website

Aaron Reidmiller: For the foundation, don't forget you can give at any time, stay tuned for more updates.

Jessica Taylor: For LTI next year would like new ideas for sessions or general input for LTI

Round table discussion:

New Kent: Just trying to get through the challenges of winter and the snow.

Charles City: shut down due to snow and roadways. Department is changing the way they are doing business. Spring sports underway, volunteer banquet coming up, Easter event coming up. There will be a position open later this year.

Hanover County: Capital projects more funding than ever before. Rebuilding bathrooms and parking lots, replacing two large playgrounds, trail work, footbridge replacement, new scoreboards and goal post, and refenced 8 baseball fields.

Looking for a business manager soon.

Second something on the green around 2,000 people

First full season in Montpelier Rec Center and Library, learning how to program and share with the library.

History and Hops event coming up in April

Chesterfield:

TR section introduced sensory bags at each of the rec centers that can be checked out for all ages, installed a sensory camping station at Rockwood Nature Center, Spring Prom coming up which is our largest event with about 200 participants with cosponsor group Step N Up at Beulah Rec Center, All Abilities Rec Fair is on May 10 and is a resource fair for rec vendors who serve specific populations or are inclusive in what they offer.

3 Easter events at 3 of our rec center locations

Ettrick Recreation Center will have Echoes of Joy the first weekend of May. It is a free event with information, food, and activities.

Beulah Rec Center hosting a BBQ this upcoming weekend

Jessie led our department through an in-service training at Beulah

Snowball Festival will be at River City Sportsplex again this year.

Revamping garden program and more involved in helping communities start their own gardens. We put in about \$90,000 in Rockwood community garden. April 1st will be the kickoff

River City Sportsplex has 16 fields now. Designed a park and splash pad for the location

First splash pad available August 2nd at Beulah Rec Center

Project manager Stuart Connock is retiring, and his last day will be May 1st

50th anniversary at Rockwood Park

Transitioning everything to Microsoft to create teams and hubs with slow roll out and looking for input on how to incorporate AI to improve efficiencies.

Goochland:

Looking for new county administrator.

Ordered 24 ft concession trailer for the department.

The department is taking responsibility for the farmer's market. Working with Powhatan to operate jointly.

Rural agency network met recently and gave a presentation on budget revamp.

Connect2concept software for back of house operations. Helps track fire extinguishers, SOP's, EAP's, used PM's to track.

Master plan update still in early phase. We are gathering feedback and have hired a consultant to assist.

Santa calling, we had about 284 kids to call within 2 hours. We had 30 volunteers to assist and are already looking for volunteers for next year due to the success. Summer concert series coming up from 6-7 pm at Tucker Park where Goochland and Powhatan collide. Partnering with the chamber for more sponsorships, eggstravaganza coming up.

Powhatan:

A lot going on at Christmas, we had our first holiday market. We had 40 vendors and a band in the gym at Landmark Center. It was gingerbread themed, and we had a gingerbread house competition.

Valentine's dance got postponed but had about 90 guests.

Scavenger hunt held with the library and YMCA. Had about 5 vendors and 475 people attend. Held on the library trail during spring break week.

Having firefighters and friends event. Partnership with first responders.

Spring Break Hoops

Summer camps coming up including an EMS camp.

New concession stand ribbon cutting on April 12.

Free teen movie night as part of a grant funded anti nicotine program.

First Friday's music in the park starts in June – August

Farmer's Market starts May 1st

Richmond:

Midtown Green is the new administration office to be finished before end of the year.

Opening two brand new facilities east end and southside. With a rooftop basketball court. Both will have community gardens.

Renovating three other rec centers with two opening this year.

Another center just given to us, and we are gutting the building and opening in 2026.

Three outdoor splashpads and a total of 5 swimming pools indoors

Senior prom at the Altria next month.

Farmer's Market opening this spring

Basketball just finished this year.

Meeting adjourned