

**JOINT MEETING
FLOYD TOWN COUNCIL, FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS &
FLOYD-FLOYD COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION OF AUTHORITY
FLOYD COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, 120 W. OXFORD ST., FLOYD, VA 24091
July 30, 2019
7:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

Vice Mayor Patton makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Bond to come out of recess from the July 18, 2019 Town Council meeting.

Vice Mayor Patton-aye
Councilman Turner-aye
Councilman LeMay-aye
Councilman Bond-aye
Mayor Griffin-aye

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT – Vice Mayor Patton, Councilman Turner, Councilman LeMay, Councilman Bond, Mayor Griffin, Town Attorney Shortt, Town Manager Cox and Town Clerk Holfield were present.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEMBERS PRESENT – Chairman Lauren Yoder, Vice Chairman Joe Turman, Supervisor Jerry Boothe, Supervisor Justin Coleman, Supervisor Linda DeVito Kuchenbuch (Mrs. Kuchenbuch also serves on the Floyd-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority), County Attorney Steve Durbin, County Administrator Terri Morris and Assistant County Administrator Cindy Ryan.

FLOYD-FLOYD COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT – Chairwoman Kendra Edgell and Secretary Jonie Brennen.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION-

A. Floyd-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority

Chairman Yoder--we have been going around and around on these issue for several months and now it is time to move forward and make progress. We need to come up with a solution. Chairman Yoder asked that Mrs. Kendra Edgell, Chairman of the Floyd-Floyd County Parks and Recreation Authority give an update on what the Authority has done in the past month since they last met with the groups.

Mrs. Kendra Edgell shared a draft 30/60/90-day plan with Town Council and the Board of Supervisors. She noted that over the last 30 days the authority has created a new website and logo, created a new mission and value statement for the vision she sees for the authority if they are to continue as a partner with the new County Recreation Department, created a strategic and 30/60/90 day plan, increased visibility online with the new website and social media to encouraging community support and volunteerism, reached out to local businesses for support

and have received a lot of positive responses and feedback to keep doing what they are doing, reconciliation of bank accounts, drafted a new budget, transferred the bank accounts for personal accounts to a business account, sold the recreation van, prioritizing the bills and debts, began their inventory in assessment of dollar value (1/3 of the inventory complete), prioritized a maintenance plan for upkeep of the park, began a grant application with Home Depot for playground mulch, spoke with members of the Partnership of Floyd regarding maintenance of the Dodd Creek Trail, spoken with Streamline Timber Frame about a partnership to create more structures at the park, created a list of events and activities that the Recreation Authority could host to generate revenue and made a list of current and new sponsors. Mrs. Edgell stated that the authority still lacks 4 County appointed board members, there are several interested parties if the positions are posted. She has also created board member books for each new member to help them understand their roles and responsibilities.

Mrs. Edgell reviewed the high points of the draft 30/60/90-day plan, by reading the objective of the 30/60/90-day plan, the plan is to understand the business of the authority. In order to achieve this objective, the Authority Board must interview partners, stakeholders, and client of the Authority. The goal is to be able to accelerate the learning process in order to be an effective organization with our community. Assess the business of the Authority. In order to achieve this objective, the Authority must perform an audit of the team, key processes, its finances, and other performance initiatives. The goal is to identify opportunities for short-and long- term improvements. Optimize the potential of the Authority. In order to achieve this objective, the Authority must learn how to implement one key change in the process and demonstrate improvement. The goal is to make a change that will make an effective impact on the performance of the Authority.

Mrs. Edgell continued by reading the new Mission Statement of the Authority. As stewards of Floyd County's green spaces, we enrich our community by caring for and expanding our recreational resources, public green spaces to create meaningful experiences for our residents and visitors. As such, our efforts aim to draw in and promote outdoor and recreational activities and create safe spaces for quality community and recreational programming. The vision of the Authority is to improve the well-being of every person in our community by connecting them to each other and their environment our green spaces and other recreational facilities. Key Core Values of the Authority include Civic Responsibility, Equity, Exceptional Customer Experiences, Safety, Continuous Learning and Integrity. Desired outcomes of the Authority are to enhance appreciation and increased profile of the Authority within our community, improve Management Practices that deliver responsible solutions that balance financial goals with responsible resource stewardship and improve business efficacy to maximize resources, labor, and increase annual revenue ultimately allowing us to expand our green spaces and recreational facilities.

Mrs. Edgell stated that a lot information has been included in the packet she provided, and she hoped that the Board and Council members would take time to read over it to understand why the Authority is asking to remain intact. One of the keys to success of the Authority includes having a full board of talented, passionate people who believe in the vision so that they can and should remain intact even with the County's newly formed department. She continued by giving a brief overview of the 60 and 90 day objectives and goals.

Current debt of the Authority was \$13,023.01, they have paid over \$2,100 of that debt and set aside \$850 dollars for adult softball officials. The debt remaining is \$10,233.92, \$6,000 of that cost if for the FY18 audit.

Remaining challenges that the Authority faces is their debt and lack of office/meeting space. The County has asked that the Authority to be out of their current space by end of day, July 31st. This request was emailed to the Authority with less than a week to make arrangements to find a new space. Additional challenges include lack of appointed Authority board members and the divisiveness of the remaining Authority board members.

Mrs. Edgell's asked the Board of Supervisors and Town Council how the Authority can best support the Community given the new vision, what would it take for there to be more buy in from the Board of Supervisors and Town Council, how can the Authority support the Board of Supervisors and Town Council and what can the Board of Supervisors and Town Council contribute to make the Authority a success.

Mrs. Jonie Brennen stated that the lines of communication are lacking between the Authority board members. She was never asked her opinion or thoughts on what should be included in the strategic and 30-60-90-day plan and had not seen the document until last night. After reviewing the plan, she thinks good things have been included however the main problem with the Authority, and the reason she voted for the dissolution of the Authority, is the debt and there is no money coming in. Money and lack of sponsorship has been an ongoing problem for quite some time, and she feels that it will continue to be an issue. She stated that Mrs. Edgell has a great vision for the Authority, if there was money, but the debt of the Authority would only continue to increase over the winter months.

Mrs. Brennen spoke in favor of the dissolution of the Authority noting that it would be in the best interest of the County's new department. She would like to see the recreation park remain a park. The park was created for recreation in Floyd and that's what it should continue to be. She also stated that if at any point the County sees a need to sell the park, it should be agreed upon by the Town and County and the proceeds should be split between the two groups.

Mrs. Brennen noted that she wants the new recreation department to be successful and she wants the programs to be what they use to be. She feels that by being a part of the County it will be an established department and it can take care of the issues that the Authority has had. She continued by asking for additional time to move the Authorities things out of the current space. The items need to be gone through and properly stored, not left in a mess. Mrs. Edgell had asked for 30 days and that would be greatly appreciated.

Chairman Yoder stated for clarification, he had spoken with Ms. Terri Morris the County Administrator and Mrs. Edgell about the eviction email sent to the Authority, the County owns the office and the plan is to set up the County Recreation Department in that office. We are noting going to throw everything out on the street, we are going to control who comes and goes from the building.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch stated that whether or not there was divisiveness between Authority members it behooved those who were developing a plan to talk with the two board members prior to last night. She voiced concerns about how the new vision of the Authority moves forward and what would be expected of the Town and County and how the Authority would participate with the field. The County is creating a 21st century Recreation Department and with that we are talking about tours, festivals and allowing our elderly to have something. This is not just for five to thirteen-year-old kids. She sees a need for more adult league sports as well. She voted to allow the Authority to dissolve, and she continues in that realm, that would be her vote tonight if a vote is to be taken.

Supervisor Jerry Boothe asked, if the Board doesn't allow the Authority to continue what happens to the debt they owe? He's not going to vote to spend tax dollars to pay it. Some of the board members may be willing to. Are you, the members, saying that you don't want an opportunity to pay this debt off?

Mrs. Jonie Brennen stated that is not what she is saying. Her problem is that the authority has been in debt for quite some time even with programs going on. Realistically how can we make new plans when we couldn't come out of the debt from before. She doesn't know how that the existing debt can be paid off or how the Authority could move forward in its current condition.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch stated that there is used equipment (footballs, football pants, shoulder pads, etc.) that can possible be sold to the County to reduce and relive a good part of the debt. A negotiation of price would have to be agreed upon by the Recreation Authority and the Board of Supervisors. Robinson, Farmer and Cox did an audit, that still needs to be paid for, but at the same time, the County pays them a lot of money to them, there may be something she could do to ask for forgiveness of part of that debt since she is a Recreation Authority member.

Supervisor Jerry Boothe pointed out that an audit will also need to be complete on FY18-19 and on a portion of FY 19-20.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch stated that the Code of VA states that the Authority must have an audit. Ms. DeVito listed the equipment that maybe useful to the County; footballs, football pants & shoulder pads, soccer balls, soccer goals, basketballs, and volleyballs. Most everything in baseball/softball is outdated except some t-ball helmets that were purchased last year. There is some equity in equipment. The audits will total around \$13,000.

Mrs. Edgell stated that after creating a profit and loss statement the Authority is +/- \$300. The problem the Authority faces is that they did not ask for appropriations on time for FY19-20. Due to a lack of communication, we did not ask for the appropriations and the Authority would not be in debt as far if the documentation for appropriations had been take care of properly. The documents had been created, they were just not turned in.

Mayor Griffin questioned if Supervisor Kuchenbuch and Mrs. Jonie Brennen had had enough time to review the strategic and 30-60-90-day plan to support the plan? Supervisor Kuchenbuch stated that she had not had enough time to review the document. Mayor Griffin asked if given more time, did Supervisor Kuchenbuch think she could be brought back into saying yes and agree to not dissolve the Authority? Supervisor Kuchenbuch stated that she should keep an open mind, but she feels like the new County Department needs as strong a playing field as it can get.

Members continued by discussing the finances of the Authority, questioning the bills that would continue to be accrued if the Board of Supervisors and Town Council chose not to dissolve the Authority. County Attorney Steve Durbin stated that the County and Town must make provisions for any payments in order to finally dissolve. There has to be something worked out amongst the entities who created the Authority to satisfy those debts or the Authority has to satisfy those debts itself before it was dissolved.

Chairman Yoder requested that each member of both the Board of Supervisors and the Town Council have a chance to speak and voice their thoughts.

Supervisor Coleman—He appreciates all the work that has been presented. His decision will be made for the betterment of the community and the County as a whole. He fears that leaving the Recreation Authority intact would create competition between the Authority and the Recreation Department. He would like to see the County adopt a model that is around us with neighboring counties and have an Advisory Committee to our Recreation department for the sole purpose of programs. This would allow for fresh and new ideas for volunteers with less of a commitment. The Advisory Committee would solely come in and be representatives of all parts of the community.

Supervisor Coleman requested that the recreation park continue to be used for recreation purposes for the citizens of the County of Floyd. As far as the debt of the Authority, the County still needs equipment. He stated that the equipment is going to have to be purchased from somewhere so there are funds that have to be dispersed one way or another, if that is part of a resolve of the dissolution of the Authority, may it be. He closed by thanking the Authority members for their efforts.

Councilman LeMay—He agreed with what Supervisor Coleman had said. Doing something is better than nothing. It's about the kids and the community and going into the 21st century for adults and the elderly.

Vice Mayor Patton—He stated he takes this issue to heart tremendously. He and his wife have both served on the Recreation Authority. He commended the Board of Supervisors on the new Recreation Department. He stated that he feels like the Authority does need to be saved. But he agreed with Supervisor Coleman that there does not need to be any competition between the two groups. Competition could become a problem. He liked idea of an Advisory Committee with energetic and creative citizens. He closed by stating that he really appreciated everything that Mrs. Kendra Edgell had done and noted that even though he and Supervisor Kuchenbuch do not always agree he truly feels that Supervisor Kuchenbuch cares just as much as he does about the matters at hand.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch —She had already spoken earlier in the meeting and did not have anything to add.

Councilman Bond—He agreed with what Supervisor Coleman said and thinks that everyone in the room feels the same. With football season and fall sports just around the corner it is time we act. He was up in the air until a few minutes ago, he was under the impression that the County department was adult and youth sports only. He didn't know there were plans for expansion to other programs and now understands the complement aspect. It sounds like the plan of the County is to expand that in the near future. He stated that at one time the Authority was full of life now is a different time. He knows that the County faces an uphill battle to bring the image around, but he is confident that they can. He is in favor of whatever makes that journey easier for the County.

Vice Chairman Turman—He agrees with what the others have said, noting that everyone in the room is passionate about the kids and citizens of this community. He stated that there will be hurt feelings no matter what happens, but the Board of Supervisors and the Town Council have to find a common ground and that is the citizens and the kids and we've got to get this moving forward.

Supervisor Boothe—He did not see a need to rush the dissolution of the Authority, the kids programs are going to continue under the new Recreation Department regardless of the decisions that are made tonight. He understands the vision of the 21st century, but we (the Board of Supervisors) haven't discussed anything outside of these sporting programs. We haven't budgeted for that for the next year. He did not want to see the Board of Supervisors assume the debt of the Authority, he felt like the Authority should be given the opportunity to pay their debt off. The Authority has not said they will be competing with the County on sports programs. He sees the Authority as a complementary end, at least in the first year or two, to getting the Recreation Department running. The Authority could do programs for the adult and elderly in this community both inside Town and outside of Town. There are programs that the new Recreation Department are not set up to do right now. He voiced concerns about the amount of money the Board member are willing to pull out of contingency to run the new department. He would like to give the Authority an opportunity to pay their bills, give them 6 months. The Board of Supervisors can work with the Authority to buy equipment to help cover part of their outstanding debt. This will not impact the programs the Recreation Department will offer one way or the other. The Recreation Department is still going to move forward and provide for the children.

Councilman Turner—He noted that everyone has had some good comments and the he feels for the most part a decision has already been decided on the direction the boards are going. The Town needs to support the County. Competition is definitely something we don't want. Both the Authority and the department are not going to be able to get done the things they want to do if they are competing. He noted that the Recreation Authority was a good thing and is still a good thing, but unfortunately he thinks it has got to the point now where it will be difficult for them to continue it without some additional people stepping up to the bat who are interested in helping out. He thanked the Authority members stating that he knows they have put a lot of work into trying to come up with this plan. Their work has not gone unnoticed. He doesn't want them to walk away tonight thinking that no one appreciated what they have done.

Mayor Griffin—He stated that at the end of the day the County is going to drive this department and at the end of the day if the Authority is more of a hindrance than an asset in the County's direction, then we need to do what is best for the Board of Supervisors. He questioned the confusion that would be created if the Recreation Authority continues, he can see there being some competition there that would be a hindrance to moving forward. He stated that as far as the matter of the dissolution goes if it dissolves and there is debt, then the Town and County have a service to our community where this debt was created to make it right. At the end of the day let's make it better for the kids, let's make it easier for the kids, and clearer for the community as to what is going on.

Supervisor Kuchenbuch—She noted that she doesn't think there is anyone in the room that is not committed to the citizens of this County and the children of this County. She stated that the members at the table have talked about the kind of vision that this department of the County wants to have. This vision of leading and developing programming that is 21st century. It is clear that we dropped the ball. We should have been talking about this in January when the Authority, who had all of its members, voted to dissolve. As Will stated, fiduciary responsibility is upon our shoulders. We cannot let this Authority dissolve without figuring out a good way to handle the debt. She stated that Supervisor Coleman had talked to her about the Programming Advisory Committee and it is one of the things that she thought would be a really good idea. People who are vested in Recreation and programming of all types could help the County. They could be able to come, have an influence and be able to make something happen. She wants the groups to be one and move ahead as a department.

Chairman Yoder—He stated that he has stressed over this more than any other issue that he has dealt with in the 8 years that he has been involved on the County Board. He started stressing over it 3 years ago when he was on the Recreation Authority when he realized that volunteerism was going down and the Authority was struggling more and more. He was still of the opinion that the Authority can function without competing with the County, but we (The Board) have to figure out a way to make it all work. He has faith in some of the members, but it still seems to be a struggle because it is a lot to take on, it is a lot to ask of people.

Vice Mayor stated that he had spoken with his brother from Florida in length about the Recreation Authority. His brother asked him why the Board and Council were not utilizing their head staff members, the County Administrator and the Town Manager to hash the details out and make a recommendation to their Boards. Vice Mayor Patton thought that would be a great idea to move forward because we can sit here all night and not come to a conclusion.

Vice Mayor Patton moved that we direct our Town Manager and our Town Attorney to work with the County Administrator and the County Attorney to make a recommendation that the four of them agree upon to our Council and to the Board resolving how we would resolve the future of the Recreation Authority. The motion died for lack of a second.

It was noted that members of the Board and Council are elected officials, elected to make these kinds of decisions. Without the appropriate direction it would not be fair to staff to ask them to make these decisions.

Chairman Yoder polled his Board members before moving ahead with additional discussion regarding the dissolution of the Authority. It was noted there was a majority consensus among three members.

Members of the Board and Council along with their attorneys discussed the restrictions in the Recreation Park deed. Town Attorney Jim Shortt read the section from the deed “Floyd Parks Committee Inc, of Floyd-Floyd County Public Recreation Facility Authority remains a grantee for the purpose of developing and maintaining in perpetuity an outdoor public recreation park under the provisions of the Land Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 as amended applicable to the acquisition and development of outdoor recreational facility.” It was consensus that the Recreation Park continue to be used for recreation purposes and that clarification of the fact should be added in the deed upon the dissolution of the Authority. It was also noted that if any point the Recreation Park is sold that members felt that the proceeds should be split equally between the Town and County.

Mayor Griffin polled Council members asking how many are in favor of dissolving the Authority. Three members were in favor of dissolving the Recreation Authority. He stated that just as a matter of record Town Council will not move to do anything until your Board (the Board of Supervisors) has done so. Town Council meets Thursday night and unless the Board of Supervisors take a vote tonight then Town Council won’t take any action until Thursday. Because it has been the consensus of our Council all along to be supportive of what the Board of Supervisors are wanting to do.

Chairman Yoder stated that he appreciated the support of Town Council.

The Board of Supervisors recessed and then convened back in the County Board room.

ADJOURNMENT-

It was the consensus of Council Members to recessed to the Town Council meeting on Thursday, August 1,2019 at 5:30pm.

William R. Griffin, Mayor

Katie Holfield, Town Clerk