

Town of Altavista Recreation Committee

Committee Members

Sarah Mattox Roach, Chair
Victoria Mattox, Vice Chair
Tim George, Town Council
Rev. Eduardo Soto
Dr. Deidre Douglas

Ex-Officio Members

Steve Jester, Executive Director YMCA
David Garrett, Public Works Director
Amie Owens, Assistant Town Manager

Tuesday, July 20, 2021, 5:30 pm

I. Call to Order

II. Public Input

(Citizens wishing to address the Committee should provide their name/address. Comments are limited to three (3) minutes with a total of 15 minutes allotted for this purpose. Please note that the Public Input period is NOT a question-and-answer session between the public and the Committee.)

III. Minutes –approval of minutes from the May 18, 2021 meeting

IV. Old Business

- a. Final CIP for Parks and Recreation – adopted June 8, 2021

V. Project Updates

- a. Pedestrian Bridge on Jenks River Trail
- b. Dalton's Landing Canoe Launch

VI. Matters from Staff

- a. Request from YMCA to research an additional ball field in English Park

VII. Matters from Committee Members

VIII. Adjournment

Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 17, 2021, 5:30 pm

The Altavista Recreation Committee held its regularly scheduled meeting May 18, 2021 at 5:30PM in the Council Chambers at Town Hall located at 510 7th Street, Altavista, Virginia.

Members Present: Sarah Mattox Roach, Chair
Victoria Mattox, Vice Chair
Councilman Tim George
Rev. Ed Soto
Dr. Deidre Douglas

Members Absent: Steve Jester, ex officio

Also Present: David Garrett, Public Works Director
Amie Owens, Assistant Town Manager
George Sandridge, Main Street Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Sarah Mattox Roach called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

PUBLIC INPUT:

There was none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rev. Ed Soto made a motion, seconded by Councilman Tim George to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2021 and April 20, 2021 meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Assistant Town Manager Amie Owens updated members related to the seesaw at Bedford Park. Previously there had been report of accidents on the equipment and replacement requested. Ms. Owens explained that when researching potential anti-slip materials, it was discovered that the seesaw in question did not have the appropriate footrests which were updated in 2017 by the manufacturer. The seesaw will be retrofit with the footrests and grip tape to prevent slippage on this equipment. The parts for the retrofit will be delivered in the last week of May and Public Works will install.

David Garrett, Public Works Director added that the missing fence section at Bedford Park had been replaced as well as the handicapped parking signage.

PROJECT UPDATES

Ms. Owens and Mr. Garrett provided updates related to three projects currently ongoing on Eagle Trail and the Green Hill Connector Trail.

a. Eagle Trail Closure – this is for water line connection infrastructure from McMinnis Spring. The line is parallel to parts of Eagle Trail and construction is occurring Monday – Thursday with the trails opening up for use Friday – Sunday to allow for weekend enjoyment.

b. Tree cutting/removal – at the same time, some trees are being removed from the area where Town Council determined the pedestrian bridge will be installed on the passive trail. There is a plan to have a tree service remove additional trees on Eagle and Green Hill Connector trails that may be hazards. These trees are mostly ash trees with no value.

Councilman Tim George noted that the Town Council had voted to postpone the paving of the passive trail due to the need for the tree removal and the cost of paving. However, millings that are left following the paving done over the summer can be utilized for this trail.

On a related note, Mr. Garrett explained that currently, the abutments for the bridge are being designed and that once all is approved, construction can begin and the pedestrian bridge installed in the summer.

c. Trail improvements – with the closure of the trail, it has provided an opportunity to place some drainage pipe along Green Hill Connector trail as well as being able to have some additional surface material placed.

As noted at the April meeting, Ms. Owens and Mr. Garrett are working on signage and identifying markers (directional and mile) for all trails.

NEW BUSINESS

With that segue, Ms. Owens provided a graphic of all of the existing trails with the proposed areas for signage for the group to review. Discussion was held and it was requested that one additional sign be added at the point where Eagle Trail and the passive trail meet.

Ms. Owens explained that since there is planned trail signage, it is necessary to consider naming of the passive trail. Due to the contributions from the Jenks fund, it was suggested that something honoring the Jenks name be considered. Discussion was held and the names Jenks River Trail, Jenks River Loop, Jenks Trail and Jenks Riverside Trail were considered. Ms. Owens stressed that this recommendation would go to Town Council and that a formal motion would need to be made.

Councilman Tim George made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Victoria Mattox to recommend to Town Council the name of Jenks River Trail. The motion carried unanimously.

Rev. Ed Soto recommended that another sign with map be added at the bicycle turnaround indicating the location of (proposed) Jenks River Trail and back toward English Park.

Ms. Owens will complete the necessary coversheet to address this item at the Town Council's upcoming work session. Ms. Owens thanked members for their prompt resolution on this matter.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

Ms. Owens announced the opening of the Splash Pad on May 22 and 23, with seven-day a week usage through Labor Day beginning May 29.

Ms. Owens reminded members that the Dalton's Landing Canoe Launch was open for use and that once the final installations of gate, guardrail and permanent railings are complete, a formal ribbon cutting would be held and members of the Recreation Committee invited to attend.

Ms. Owens presented information on the current year capital improvement plan for all departments so that the committee could see the entirety of the projects undertaken by the Town in FY 2021 including projects that were not part of the CIP but had been recommended or requested by Town Council.

MATTERS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair Sarah Mattox Roach noted that she was approached by a citizen about staff in the park in the gator (small service vehicle) driving in excess of the 10-mph speed limit. Mr. Garrett indicated that he would address the issue.

Councilman Tim George asked if the parking area at the boat ramp would be paved. Ms. Owens reminded the group that Town Council had taken the improvements to the boat ramp area were not included in the CIP for FY 2022; however, there may be some funds available in the paving line item that could be used for such a paving project. This will be revisited as the paving work in town progresses this summer.

Councilman Tim George commented that there was interest in having an RV park. He indicated that he had spoken with an individual who had noted that some spaces were being purchased for a premium price. Ms. Owens reminded the Committee that a feasibility study was included in the CIP for FY 2022 to determine if this would be a good option for Altavista.

Councilman Tim George asked if the parking area at the Booker Building could be used for those visiting the splash pad/park with a sidewalk to access the area. The fencing around the basketball courts has been removed and he wondered if the same could be done at the parking area. Ms. Owens will discuss with the Town Manager and see if there is a reason that the fencing remains in place. However, individuals can park at the Booker Building any time there is not an event being held.

Councilman Tim George explained that there were several sandy spots on the riverbank that would be good access points. He asked if there was a plan to do anything with them. Ms. Owens explained that as part of the shoreline restoration, and the \$100,000 included in the CIP by Town Council, the area near the picnic area would be a natural access point and would be included as part of the restoration and stabilization plan.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

Town of Altavista
Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)
FY2022 - 2026

PARKS & RECREATION CIP BY YEAR

		FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
P&R	English Park Restroom	124,000				
P&R	Walking/Biking Trail Connection	60,000				
	Shoreline Stabilization (to include improvements to Picnic & River Area)	100,000				
P&R	Parking Circulation Improvement	50,000				
P&R	New Fields (EP)	25,000				
P&R	Dog Park/English Park		70,500			
P&R	Inner Loop Trail		87,000			
P&R	Overnight Campground		10,000	50,000		
P&R	Repaving/Striping Trade Lot Parking Lot			46,400	185,600	
P&R	Connection to YMCA Parking Lot				10,000	62,500
P&R	Improvements to Pedestrian Bridge Over RR				20,000	130,000
P&R	Renovations to War Memorial Entrance				35,250	
P&R	Ballfield Lights (SP)				180,000	
P&R	Disc Golf Course					26,100
PARKS & RECREATION TOTAL		359,000	167,500	96,400	430,850	218,600
FUNDING SOURCES		FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
General Fund		350,800	167,500	96,400	430,850	218,600
Grants (List)		8,200				
PARKS & RECREATION TOTAL		359,000	167,500	96,400	430,850	218,600