

Goochland County
Recreation Advisory Commission (RAC)
Meeting Minutes – May 19, 2026 Central High School (CHS)

Call to Order & Attendance

- Meeting called to order.
- Present: Larry Profit (District 3), Laverne Johnson (At-Large), Betsy Wright (District 1), Tom Cocke (Parks & Recreation Director).

Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the previous meeting reviewed and approved (motion made, seconded, carried).

Opportunity for Public Comment

- None noted.

Department Report – Tom Cocke

Budget & Financials

- Approximately 80% of the budget remains with 15% of the fiscal year left.
- Department ending the year in strong financial position.
- Revenue projections higher than prior year (estimated \$60–70k increase), driven by rentals, farmers market vendor fees, basketball, summer camp, and related programs.
- Remaining major purchases: small special events trailer (tables, banners, trash cans, etc.) and two replacement mowers (standard annual cycle).
- Full revenue projections to be shared at the next meeting.

Facilities Updates

- Tucker Park: Memorial bench near the river was lifted by frost after the freeze. Re-set and secured; no other significant facility issues as the year winds down.

Special Events

- **Upcoming**
 - Concert – May 29 (last Friday of the month) at the old elementary school field (not Tucker). Includes Rotary Club of Goochland “Fifth Friday” social plus two additional groups expected.
 - Concert schedule adjusted for 2026: April/May completed; no June or July (heat-related low turnout historically); resume August and September, (weather permitting).
 - Fireworks – July 4 at 9:15 p.m. (pushed later for darkness).
 - National Night Out – Courthouse Green- Sheriff’s Office
- **Recent Event Highlights**
 - Extreme Egg Hunt: ~200 attendees (cold/windy conditions).

- Final Master Plan Community Connect: ~30 attendees.
- First concert of the season: 365 attendees (strong turnout despite competing event at Rassawek).

Grounds

- Significant mulching completed around Administration Building and elementary school (old mulch removed from beds for cleaner appearance).
- Mowing season underway (earlier start/end times due to heat).

Staff Certifications & Professional Development

- Angelia Miller – Farmers Market Manager certification (Virginia Farmers Market Association, 14-week course).
- Joe Rosano – Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP).
- Alyssa – American Camp Association Camp Director certification + Safety Care certification (same training used by school staff).
- Tom Cocke – Graduated Goochland Leadership Enterprise (GLE) and Sheriff's Office Citizens Academy (ride-along scheduled).

Farmers Market

- Opening day exceeded 550 attendees with 27 vendors (stronger than any single day last year).
- Sponsorships secured: nearly \$8,200 to date

Forestry Grant & Related Projects

- Disc golf course expansion to 18 holes progressing (baskets ordered).
- Kayak rental unit approved for Tucker Park: four kayaks on a movable trailer (app-based rental). \$10,000 grant + \$5,000 from forestry grant. Unit can be towed out of flood zone.
- Southern Pine Beetle infestation at Leakes Mill Park: Virginia Department of Forestry plan calls for cutting 10–15 acres of affected pines (remote corner of park) and replanting hardwoods.

Other Items

- Tom and Angelia participating in Acres Initiative (protecting rural land; potential agricultural/forest districts or conservation easements).
- Program registration snapshot shared
- Leadership change: Josh Gillespie departed. New Deputy County Administrator Elizabeth McDonald (former Utilities Director, PE) now oversees Parks & Recreation, Animal Control, Assessor's Office, IT, and Utilities. One-on-ones and facility tours scheduled.

Old Business

- **Master Plan:** Board of Supervisors voted unanimously (4-0) to move forward. Strong interest in East End Park. Conceptual boards in Administration Building helping communicate vision.
- **Wall of Fame:** Nominations open; none received yet. Social media and partner outreach planned.
- **Open Board Seat:** Application process to be tracked (Carrie Monger vacancy)

New Business / Discussion

- **Software:** current ActiveNet system, goal for FY27 is upgrade (ex., CivicRec or similar)
- **Planned FY27 monthly e-newsletter** highlighting recent activities and upcoming events (2-month look-ahead).

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned.