

**Mathews County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Agenda Thursday, 5:00 pm March 6 , 2025
Historic Courthouse, Mathews, VA.**

Call to Order, Roll Call for quorum

Approval of February Minutes, Approval of Agenda

Welcome Guests

Public comment period

Discussion of:

- ✓ South Bay Haven clean-up day -March 15
- ✓ Port Fun Family Day – June 8
- ✓ Rotary Club grant application submission (completed)
- ✓ Plans to walk the property behind the sheriff's office.
- ✓ Water Access points
- ✓ YMCA
- ✓ Mathews Outdoor Club

Comments from Commission members

Public Comment Period 2

Next meeting May 1 at 5pm Historic Courthouse

Mathews County Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
Minutes Thursday, 5:00 pm, March 6, 2025
Historic Courthouse, Mathews, VA.

Call to Order, Roll Call for quorum

- Present: Nick Koch, Earl Byrum, Amber Moore, Terry Dixon, Sharon Frye, Dan Reno, Jason Garcia (YMCA), Christine Johnson, Jan Towne
- Absent: Amy O'Neil, Tim Tillage, Tom Bowen

Approval of February Minutes, Approval of Agenda

- Motion to accept minutes: Jan Towne, Second Nick Koch Passed 7-0
- Motion to accept agenda: Earl Byrum, Second Jan Towne, Passed 7-0
- Welcome Guests

Public comment period

- No guests present

Discussion-

- South Bay Haven Clean up Day- March 15, 9:00 Am. Bring tools, snacks, etc. Tim Tillage will have dumpster.
- Port Fun Family Day- June 8, 1-4. We have \$305 budgeted. More may be available if needed. Jan Towne and Amber are working on children's games (fish pond, etc.)
- ID's in process for FB page to advertise events.
- Pickleball lessons planned for one morning and one evening per month beginning in April
- New bathrooms at Port Fun are under construction-to be completed this summer.
- Litter Picker Station in process. To be installed soon at Port Fun.
- Rotary Club grant application has been completed. Request \$2500 for matting around merry-go-round
- Plans to walk the 64 acres behind sheriff office—walk planned for March 15 following the South Bay cleanup. Potential path to be marked with ribbons. Will ask County to bush hog the path.
- YMCA- Talks started about Community Pool in cooperation with County. (Stage 2, which included a pool was in the initial YMCA plans)
- Water Access Points
 - Dredging at Hole in the Wall not started. Barges are in place. Beach is closed to the public
- Mathews Outdoor Club
 - See attached information from MathewsBlueways.org
 - Funding for MOC Blueways projects comes from Dominion, DWR
 - Mathews Museum to provide research for each Blueways site in Mathews
 - MOC planned activities attached
 - MCVIC may have funds remaining from Earth Day with theme "Keep VA Beautiful." Check with them in October to see if there are funds for more Litter Pickup activities/projects.
 - Christine Johnson will serve as Parks and Rec contact with MCVIC.
- Next Meeting May 8, at 5 pm Historic Courthouse (adjusted to avoid conflict with May Faire)

Information Kiosks

At all trail locations, MOC will purchase and install information kiosks that will include a trail map, historical data, area attractions, nature information, and important resources.

Covered Tables

Where space is available, a covered table will be added for visitor usage. MOC partners with Master Naturalists in the area to identify ideal table spots that will not infringe on existing wildlife habitats. One location near a public boatramp & restaurant will be fitted with a kayak rack.

Promo & Marketing

Part of the Mathews Blueways Trail connects/ overlaps with the National Park Service's [Captain John Smith Chesapeake Natl Historic Trail](#), along the Piankatank River. MOC will partner local & regional tourism groups to promote wider usage.

Our partners

Mathews Outdoor Club is in close partnerships with area stakeholders for this upgrade project, including:

- Mathews County Parks & Recreation Commission
- Mathews Co Visitor Information Center
- Middle Peninsula Master Naturalists
- Mathews Historical Society



Projected Timeline

- 2025 Jan – submit grant applications
- 2025 Apr – purchase initial 10 kiosks & signage
- 2025 May – install 10 kiosks with signage
- 2025 Oct – purchase remaining 7 kiosks & kayak rack
- 2025 Nov – install kiosks with signage
- 2025 Nov – submit next round of grant applications
- 2026 Feb – purchase & install covered tables
- 2026 Mar – marketing campaign (photographer, website, brochures, social media)

Explore Outdoor Events



April 26, 2025 | This year's Gwynn's Island Race is celebrating its 10th anniversary with an exciting new collaboration. Stay tuned! The Hatchery x MOC



May 17, 2025 | For 26 years, cyclists come to peddle the flat, windy, backroads of Mathews County with bike routes totaling over 100 miles.



June 28, 2025 | Circumnavigating one of Virginia's few inhabited islands – Gwynn's Island – test your limits in this 9 mile paddle event crossing through 3 bodies of water!



August 16, 2025 | Calling all salt water fish! Join this fundraiser sporting event that challenges swimmers to a 1 mile swim across the calmer waters of the East River.



October 18, 2025 | Want to have bragging rights in the world's flattest race course? Choose own your adventure: full or half marathon, relay and virtual options.



Dates coming soon | The MOC partners with USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 66 to offer courses & certification classes for you to safely enjoy the outdoors.

On Saturday, March 15, six members of the Parks and Rec Commission, with assistance from Tim Tillage, Jason Hudgins, and two community volunteers, spent over six hours trimming trees and brush and removing debris and trash from the South Bay Haven Park. Commission members surveyed the site and held a brief meeting. The following motion was made.

Motion

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission recommends to the Board of Supervisors ---- Plans for South Bay Haven Park should include a pier, kayak launch, small fence along the east side property line, a pavilion placed on the existing concrete pad, parking spots added on the north end with an outlet to the main road, a porta potty and trash cans.

(Motion by Earl Bynum, seconded by Sharon Frye and passed 5-0.)

Please let me know if you have any questions and if I need to be prepared to speak at the BOS meeting.

Thanks,