

NOTICE OF WORK SESSION

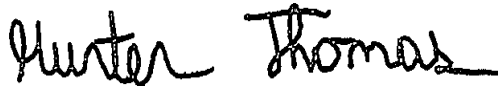
Notice is hereby given that the **PRESTON COUNTY COMMISSION** will conduct a **Work Session on Monday, February 10, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.** in the County Commission Meeting Room, Kingwood, West Virginia, for the following:

Preston County Parks & Recreation - Discussion on Budgeting and Funding



President

2/6/2025
Date



Commissioner

2/6/2025
Date

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA,

COUNTY OF PRESTON, Ss:

The Preston County Commission held a Work Session Monday, February 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. in the Preston County Commission Meeting Room with Preston County Parks & Recreation for a discussion on budgeting and funding.

The meeting was called to order by President Don Smith who read the call and invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Smith then declared the following Commissioners present: Samantha Stone, Hunter Thomas, and Don Smith.

Also, present was County Administrator, Nathan Raybeck.

The following people registered their attendance during the meeting: (See Attached.)

NOTICE OF WORK SESSION
PRESTON COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION
DISCUSSION ON BUDGETING AND FUNDING

Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 - 10:00 a.m.

Attendance sign-in sheet, please print your name:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1. <u>Matthew Wender</u> | 20. _____ |
| 2. <u>Sara Saurino</u> | 21. _____ |
| 3. <u>Carl Ervin</u> | 22. _____ |
| 4. <u>Devra Deems</u> | 23. _____ |
| 5. <u>Josh Waugh</u> | 24. _____ |
| 6. <u>Rachelle Thorne</u> | 25. _____ |
| 7. <u>Samantha Stone</u> | 26. _____ |
| 8. <u>Don Smith</u> | 27. _____ |
| 9. <u>Hunter Thomas</u> | 28. _____ |
| 10. <u>Nate Raybeck</u> | 29. _____ |
| 11. <u>Deanna Hively</u> | 30. _____ |

Below are points addressed at the meeting.

On Thu, Feb 6, 2025 at 10:50 AM PCPaRC Commission <prestoncountyparks@gmail.com> wrote:
 Hi Everyone,

In advance of our Monday work session, I am sharing several links that I hope you will take some time to skim through. These links show national trends, ideas and inspiration, approaches to parks & rec from our neighboring counties, and the opportunity we have to improve the overall health of our communities. We can look to these for guidance towards planning what will work for our own unique set of considerations, needs, and natural assets. I've also included some potential items for discussion for your consideration to optimize our use of time on Monday. Thank you for your time and we look forward to meeting with you next week.

1) Links to resources and information

2024 National Statistics for Parks and Recreation agencies:

<https://www.nrpa.org/publications-research/research-papers/agency-performance-review/>

Parks and Recreation in my home county:

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/rap> (population 334,529 and 253 sq mi compared to Preston County population 34,216 and 651 sq mi - these links are for ideas and inspiration not as an expectation of what our county should aspire towards)

<https://www.howardcountymd.gov/recreation-parks/resource/2025-springsummer-activity-guide>

Parks and Recreation in my home city:

<https://columbiaassociation.org/about-us/>

Parks and Recreation in neighboring WV counties:

https://www.monongaliacounty.gov/departments/parks_and_recreation/ (Director JR Petsko attended our 2024 work session)

<https://www.mcparc.com/parks.html>

<https://randolphcountycommissionwv.org/recreation-board/>

<https://pocahontasparksandrec.com/>

<https://www.grantcountywv.org/agencies/parks-recreation.php>

<https://barbourcountywv.org/parks-recreation-tourism/>

https://www.upshurcounty.org/departments/parks_and_recreation/index.php

<http://www.hcparks.org/>

2022 Garrett County Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan as a potential template or guidance for our visioning process and identifying needs in our county (all counties in MD have to complete these):

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Documents/Stewardship/2022-LPPRP-Garrett-County-Final.pdf>

2) Questions we are looking for feedback on from the county commission:

1. Considering our small population, rural landscape, and the size of the county, what recreation infrastructure do you view the county is responsible for providing to ensure a high quality of life and inclusive, equitable access to diverse recreation opportunities? Consider target groups such as our youth, parents, grandfamilies, and elders.

2. With your leadership experience, what needs do you see that the parks & rec dept. should address? As a resident, what do you want for yourself, family, and friends?

3. How can the county use the parks & rec dept. to maintain, promote, and celebrate our rural, Appalachian, small-town culture, its arts, and its history?

4. Are there tasks that the PCC currently manages that could be delegated to parks and recreation for efficiency if the department could expand a little? If we had a small crew for mowing, groundskeeping, snowblowing, fixing signage, etc., are there tasks they could assist with around the PCC building and other county-owned properties that you currently contract out?

5. What would it take for the parks & rec dept. to be worth 1% of the county's budget? (FY2024-25 approximate budget was \$11,500,000; 1% would be \$115,000)

- Budget Work Session example:
 - <https://prestoncountywv.gov/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Minutes/2024-Minutes/2024-03-24-Special-Session-24-25-Budget-Workshop-D-1.pdf>
- Last fiscal year's budget for reference of the approximate budget the PCC is working with this year (Page 9):
 - <https://prestoncountywv.gov/wp-content/uploads/simple-file-list/Minutes/2024-Minutes/2024-03-26-Minutes.pdf>

6. What would it take for parks and recreation to be worth having 7 county employees with benefits? (3% of the county budget) For example:

- Director
- Manager of Park Operations & Maintenance (*potential for increased revenue from facility rentals)
- 2 Parks Staff
- Manager of Recreation Programs (*potential for increased revenue from program fees)
- 2 Programs Staff

3) Community grants in the years past were a way the department was able to assist, interact, and build relationships with each community. If the Commission can increase our funding to bring on personnel to maintain our green scapes, trails, and park infrastructure, would the Commission support us offering their services to community parks for an annual partnership buy-in fee if they express interest in receiving assistance in maintaining their parks? This would help us again reach and assist these communities in an impactful way, as they too cannot get grant funding for labor. We could also assist them with grant writing, offering recreation programs if we have the additional program staff, playground inspections, and more.

4) Revenue generation and fundraising:

- Standard parks & rec revenue sources include services such as facility rentals and programs. Our county has yet to establish athletic complexes, community fitness centers, campgrounds,

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pavilions with restrooms nearby, community arts centers, environmental education/nature centers, etc. To expand and offer services, the parks & rec dept. would need additional staff.

- Hotel/Motel - An important but uncertain and insufficient source of funding.
- Levy - Multiple staff needed to be able to run and administer one.
- Grants - Do not fund human resources unless it is a specific project such as a fitness program and the fitness instructor needed to run it, an art program and the artist needed to run it, a music program or series and the musicians needed to teach or perform, etc. Often they will fund materials but not the oversight or labor to install or build. Volunteers are helpful, but often skilled labor is needed and overall volunteerism has been on the decline.
- Fundraisers - The dept. has held raffles and events to raise money. The amount of money raised has never been enough to make it a worthwhile use of time.
- To make a bigger impact throughout the county and reach all of our communities, we need the county commission to pledge additional financial resources to the dept.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Thorne
**Preston County Parks
and Recreation Commission**

Executive Director
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www.pccparc.org
<https://www.facebook.com/pccparc>

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An audio copy of the work session is available upon written request to the Preston County Clerk. There may be a charge for this service.

At 11:26 a.m., there being no further business to come before the Commission, President Smith declared the work session adjourned.

Commissioner

Commissioner

Commissioner

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02/10/2025