

ALAMANCE COUNTY
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021 MEETING
ELI WHITNEY COMMUNITY CENTER
4110 E. GREENSBORO-CHAPEL HILL RD, GRAHAM, NC 27253

MINUTES

Members Present (Underlined): Chairman Lee Isley, Vice-Chair Kelly May, Commissioner Pamela Thompson, Mr. Ryan Bowden, Ms. Ann Meletzke, Ms. Bhavna Hilligrass, Mr. David Woody, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Mr. Mike Dunning, Ms. Lisa Wolff, Mr. Peter Dahl

Alamance Parks Staff Present: Brian Baker, Director; Anna Bowland, Grants & Communications Coordinator

I. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. The meeting was called to order and a quorum was established at 6:01pm

B. Approval of the September 21, 2021 Minutes

Upon a motion of Peter Dahl and the second of Kelly Ronnow, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2021 meeting.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

III. **REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

No report

IV. **REPORT OF STAFF**

Department Report

Director Brian Baker presented the monthly departmental report for September. Fall is a busy season for the Department due to projects and fall programs. The Cedarock Fall Festival was held on October 2 and upcoming events include the Cedarock Family Campout and Textiles and Tar Heels Festival on October 23.

V. **UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS**

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

Brian provided an update regarding the ARPA funding from the county. There may be an opportunity for departments and members of the community to present their funding requests directly to the Alamance County Board of Commissioners. More information will be posted to Alamance County Government's American Rescue Plan Information website page. Commissioner Pam Thompson encouraged members of the Recreation & Parks Commission be present to voice their support. Lisa Wolff and Kelly Ronnow expressed willingness to attend the meeting.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

EDA Grant Application for Haw River Trail Towns

Anna Bowland presented an opportunity for the Department to apply for the Economic Development Administration American Rescue Plan Act Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation grant. The project budget is \$300,000 to fund support for the Haw River Trail Towns Initiative through a feasibility study and Economic Development Specialist position. The project has a duration of 2 years and requires a 20% in-kind match from the county. The grant application will be submitted in coordination with Chatham County and Triangle J Council of Governments. Upon the motion of Lisa Wolff and the second of David Woody, the Commission voted unanimously to approve that the Department proceed with the grant application.

Consideration of a Dog Park at Cedarock Park

Brian presented the idea of a Dog Park to be added as an amenity at Cedarock Park. A community member has contacted the Department and offered to fund the installation of a dog park in memory of a family member. The Commission discussed whether a dog park is a good fit for the park. Kelly May recommended that users of the dog park would be required to register their dog with the park office due to safety concerns. Lisa Wolff supported this recommendation and drew from her experience managing a dog park in the City of Burlington. Lisa noted that Cedarock Park staff would need to be accessible to visitors of the dog park. Pam Thompson suggested that if a dog park is determined not to be a good fit, perhaps the donor would consider assisting with the Equestrian Center and horse rides program. The Commission agreed to continue discussions at the next meeting. No action was taken.

2023 – North Carolina Year of the Trail

Brian informed the Commission that North Carolina has declared 2023 as the Year of the Trail. This will result in increased publicity and potentially increased funding for trail work. He asked the Commission to think about ways we could promote and celebrate this recognition.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:05 pm by acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted, Brian Baker