



## Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2023 at 12:30pm

Impact Alamance Meeting Room • 133 E Davis St, Burlington, NC 27215

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Lee Isley, Commissioner Bill T. Lashley, Mr. Dan Ingle, Mr. David Woody, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Mr. Mike Dunning, Ms. Lisa Wolff, Mr. Peter Dahl, Dr. Harold Kernodle, Mr. Thomas Purcell, Mr. Craig Yokeley

### **ALAMANCE PARKS STAFF PRESENT:**

Nolan Carter, Trails and Open Space Coordinator; Anna Bowland, Grants & Communications Coordinator

### **PUBLIC PRESENT:**

Andrew Sam, Alamance County Task Force Leader – Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail

### **1) COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) The meeting was called to order and a quorum established at 12:31pm
- b) The January 17 meeting minutes were approved unanimously upon the motion of David Woody and second of Peter Dahl.

### **2) PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a) Andrew Sam, Alamance County Task Force Leader for the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail gave an update about the group's trail work in the county. Over the past 6 months, the task force has worked on the Copland Mill section of the Haw River Trail. Work has been done to re-route this section off the road and closer to the river. Andrew reported that over 1,185 volunteer hours have been completed. The group's next project is trail work in Saxapahaw near the dam. Andrew thanked the Department for their partnership and support. The Commission expressed their appreciation for the work of the Task Force.

### **3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

- a) None

### **4) REPORT OF STAFF**

- a) Monthly Department Report: Anna Bowland and Nolan Carter gave Department updates. The youth basketball season has ended and championship games were held last week. Registration is open until February 25 for youth tee-ball, softball, and baseball. Signups numbers are trending consistent with recent years. The Department continues to work on development of Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area Phase 2.



## Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2023 at 12:30pm

Impact Alamance Meeting Room • 133 E Davis St, Burlington, NC 27215

- b) Alamance Parks Director Update: A discussion was held regarding whether an announcement had been made regarding the hiring of a new Department Director. Lee Isley and Commissioner Lashley stated that they would follow up with Alamance County Human Resources regarding the status of the position.

### 5) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area: Nolan gave an update regarding Phase 2 construction of the park. The tower design is complete and construction is scheduled to begin in March or April. Construction will take approximately 6-8 weeks. The Department plans to open Phase 2 of the park, including the tower and trails, in the summer of 2023. More details are to come regarding the date and grand opening plans.
- b) Haw River Trail: Nolan updated the Commission on recent Haw River Trail activity. Trail re-routes have been completed and three new campsites added at Great Bend Park in Glencoe. At Great Alamance Creek, the Department is working to acquire a small parcel of land to combine with the existing 1-acre parcel to develop a paddle access and “pocket park”.

### 6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) NC Senate Bill 100 – An Act to Authorize the Haw River State Trail and Provide for its Addition to the State Trail System: The Commission discussed the proposed senate bill to include the Haw River Trail as a North Carolina state trail. The question was asked whether being designated as a state trail imposes different restrictions and permit requirements to work done on the trail system. Additionally, is there a requirement to have a separate governing board for the trail? Lisa Wolff volunteered to do some more research and investigate answers for these questions.
- b) 2023 Year of the Trail: Lee Isley provided an update that the Alamance County Visitors Bureau is running marketing campaigns, including billboards, to advertise the 2023 Year of the Trail.
- c) Funding Support for Volunteers: Peter Dahl brought to the board the need to ensure that volunteer trail builders had access to funds as needed for supplies. After discussion, it was determined that the Department had funds for these supplies and the volunteer group would communicate as money was needed.

### 7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16pm following a motion by Tommy Purcell and second from Lisa Wolff.