



Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2023 at 6:00pm

Pleasant Grove Community Center • 3958 N NC Highway 49, Burlington

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-Chair Peter Dahl, Mr. Dan Ingle, Mr. David Woody, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Mr. Mike Dunning, Ms. Lisa Wolff, Dr. Harold Kernodle, Mr. Thomas Purcell,

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 6:00pm
- b) The February 21 meeting minutes were approved unanimously upon the motion of Mike Dunning and second of Lisa Wolff.

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. He reported that the task force had a workday in Saxapahaw on March 18 and built nearly 1 mile of trail. Many community volunteers participated in the workday as a result of a recent meeting held in Saxapahaw to introduce the trail building task force to the community.

3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

- a) Vice-Chairman Peter Dahl noted the Department's recent grant award from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund – Accessibility for Parks Grant for a new accessible playground at Cedarock Park. He thanked the Grants Coordinator and staff for their work on this grant.

4) REPORT OF STAFF

- a) Monthly Department Report: Anna Bowland and Nolan Carter gave Department updates. The youth baseball season begins in April and registration numbers are strong and consistent with recent years. New lights were recently installed at the Eli Whitney and Pleasant Grove Community Centers. The Department continues to work on development of Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area Phase 2. Other current and upcoming programs include: Explore Archery, AIR Basketball Tournament, Special Olympics Spring Games, Textile Heritage Museum Founder's Day Celebration, Backpacking Along the Haw, and Cedarock Family Campout.



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5) OLD BUSINESS

- a) NC Senate Bill 100 – To Authorize the Haw River State Trail: Lisa Wolff gave an update on NC Senate Bill 100. On March 15, the bill passed the Senate Agriculture Committee unanimously. The next steps are to get full Senate approval and to get the House version passed. Lisa has been in contact with Brian Baker and Senator Amy Galey regarding the bill and will keep the board updated of its progress.
- b) Haw River Trail Updates – Saxapahaw: Nolan updated the Commission on recent Haw River Trail activity. Nearly one mile of new trail has been completed in Saxapahaw thanks to the volunteer trail builders. Volunteers also recently rebuilt a paddle access in Saxapahaw.
- c) Eli Whitney Community Center: Nolan updated the Commission that purchase orders are in place for the construction of the new walking track at the Eli Whitney Community Center. The track will be 6/10 of a mile around the perimeter of the center.
- d) Cedarock Park Disc Golf Course: A discussion was held regarding the progress of construction of the new disc golf course at Cedarock Park. Commission members asked staff to provide an update at the next meeting of the progress and match money and efforts from the disc golf community.

6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Application for the Alamance County Visitors Bureau Quarterly Tourism Reimbursement Grant Program – for promotion of Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area Phase II Opening: Anna presented the opportunity for the Department to apply to the Visitors Bureau Tourism Grant program for the promotion of Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area Phase II Opening. The promotions will include traditional print, digital, and billboard advertising. Upon the motion of Kelly Ronnow and second of Mike Dunning, the Commission voted unanimously in favor of approving the Department's application.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm following a motion by Dan Ingle and second from Harold Kernodle.