



Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2023 at 6:00pm

Alamance Parks Admin Office • 3916 R. Dean Coleman Rd, Burlington

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Lee Isley, Vice-Chair Peter Dahl, Commissioner Bill T. Lashley, Mr. David Woody, Mr. Mike Dunning, Dr. Harold Kernodle, Mr. Thomas Purcell, Mr. Dan Ingle, Mr. Craig Yokeley

ALAMANCE PARKS STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Merchel, Director; Nolan Carter, Trails & 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 6:02pm
- b) The April 18 meeting minutes were approved unanimously upon the motion of Peter Dahl and second of Tommy Purcell.

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. Andrew also informed the Commission that the MST task force has been awarded a grant to continue work on the MST in Alamance County.

3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

- a) Chairman Lee Isley thanked the commission for their attendance at the meeting and acknowledged Peter Dahl's for his help in directing the last two meetings in his absence. Lee congratulated Nolan Carter on his accomplishment of completing the Leadership Alamance professional development series with Impact Alamance.

4) REPORT OF STAFF

- a) Monthly Department Report: Director Jamie Merchel gave Department updates. The Department is busy running and preparing spring and summer programs including: Youth T-ball/Softball/Baseball, Sandlot Baseball, Archery, Camp 'n' Klean, Family Footgolf, Over There and on the Homefront Living History, Special Olympics Summer Games, Athletic Summer Camps, and Summer Musical Chairs.
- b) Eli Whitney Walking Track: Jamie provided the update that construction of the new walking track at the Eli Whitney Community Center is underway. Funding was also available in the grant to provide a new fence at the dog park.



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5) OLD BUSINESS

- a) NC Senate Bill 100 – To Authorize the Haw River State Trail: Jamie and Nolan gave an update on NC Senate Bill 100. The bill is very close to being signed and should be official very soon.
- b) Cane Creek Mountains Area Phase 2: Jamie gave the update that the Department opened a portion of Phase 2 of the Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area, the Oak Hill Trailhead on May 5. Now open are the parking area, restrooms, and Pioneer Camp Trail. The remaining amenities of Phase 2, including camping and the Observation Tower, will open later this summer/early fall. The tower is currently being reviewing by the planning department for permitting and approval. Additionally, wells have been drilled at both trailheads for future use.
- c) The Regulator Disc Golf Course: Jamie provided an update on the Regulator Disc Golf Course being built at Cedarock Park. Staff made much progress in the past week and the Department is still targeting mid-July for the course to be playable. The course will host the US Women's Disc Golf Tournament on September 21-14, 2023.

6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Impact Alamance Grant Application for Great Alamance Creek Paddle Access: Anna Bowland presented the opportunity to apply for a \$40,000 grant from Impact Alamance which would fund the development of a paddle access at Great Alamance Creek. The paddle access would allow paddlers to connect to the Haw River Trail paddle trail 9 miles downstream. Upon the motion of Peter Dahl and second of Harold Kernodle, the board voted unanimously to approve the grant application.
- b) Expiring Commission Seats: The commission discussed the term expirations of three members, Lee Isley, David Woody, and Mike Dunning. All three expressed interest in continuing to serve on the commission. Commissioner Lashley instructed them to submit applications on the Alamance County website.
- c) Budget: County Commissioner Bill Lashley spoke about the proposed county budget and invited Recreation and Parks Commission members to go online to watch the County Commissioner's work session planned for May 23rd starting at 2pm. The Parks budget may be discussed during that work session. The proposed budget can be found in its entirety on the Alamance County website for review. Parks will see a significant increase to the capital improvements budget for the 23/24 fiscal year with the approval of \$1 million for ABSS ball field improvements and \$300,000 for the Old Post Office at CRP.
- d) Contact form for Board Members: Parks staff brought up the need for members of the public to be able to contact commission members regarding questions or concerns. The commission approved for parks staff to explore adding a contact form on the



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commission page of the parks website for public inquiries directed to the recreation and parks commission members.

- e) Park Expansion Ideas: Members of the commission brought forward some ideas to park staff for future expansion including outdoor pickleball courts and mountain biking trails. Staff confirmed these ideas were added to the list to explore for the future.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm upon the motion of Tommy Purcell and second of Peter Dahl.