



# Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2023 at 6:00pm

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

## **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Lee Isley, Vice-Chair Peter Dahl, Mr. David Woody, Mr. Mike Dunning, Mr. Thomas Purcell, Mr. Craig Yokeley, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Ms. Lisa Wolff

## **ALAMANCE PARKS STAFF PRESENT:**

Jamie Merchel, Director; Nolan Carter, Trails & Open Space Coordinator; Anna Bowland, Grants & Communications Coordinator

### **1) COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) The meeting was called to order and a quorum established at 6:02pm
- b) The May 16 meeting minutes were approved unanimously upon the motion of Lisa Wolff and second of Peter Dahl.

### **2) PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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

- a) Chairman Lee Isley noted that tonight's meeting would be his last as his current appointment expires on June 30. He thanked the commission for the opportunity to serve on the board and praised the Department's work to provide great park and recreation opportunities to the county.

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

- a) Monthly Department Report: Director Jamie Merchel gave Department updates:
  - A contact form has been added to the website for members of the public to send a message to members of the commission. The responses will be forwarded to all commission members.
  - The Regulator Disc Golf Course: Burlington Area Disc Golf (BADG) has scheduled a volunteer work day on Saturday 6/24. Construction continues and a contractor is lined up to grade the terrain on the holes along the creek to help drainage in those areas. The Underground Disc Golf Club donated proceeds from a recent tournament to the construction of the course.
  - Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area Phase 2: The parking lot signage and gate has been installed. The well has been drilled and we are waiting on the pump. The camping area is almost complete and will be opened for reservations once logistics are ironed out. The wildlife observation deck between the trails is complete. The tower construction is still held up due to state permitting. If construction is delayed further we may consider opening the Tower Trail once the foot bridge is completed by the Eagle Scout.



## Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2023 at 6:00pm

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

- Walking Track at Eli Whitney: The track extension is complete; the fencing, water to dog park and landscaping are still in progress. If there is money left over from the grant for this project the Department is looking for recommendations for additional enhancements to the outside area at Eli Whitney, such as enhancements to the dog park. The project was funded by a grant from Impact Alamance and a site visit is scheduled with the agenda on 6/29.
- Cedarock Park Playground: Planning for the accessible playground will begin this summer. The Department plans to gather public input for the design process.
- Additional security cameras were added at Swepsonville Upper and Lower Access and at Cedarock Park.

### b) Report of Upcoming Programs:

- Athletic Summer Camps (June 26-30 & July 10-14 at PG)
- Family Pickle Ball at Eli Whitney Sat 6/24
- Musical Chairs at Cedarock Friday 6/30
- Special Olympics Recruiting Event 7/7 at The Blend & Co. in Burlington.
- Football season kicks off with practices starting the first week of August.
- Alcovets Balloon Festival planning meetings in progress; Event will take place at Cedarock Park 9/8-9/10
- PDGA Event planning full steam ahead; Event taking place at Cedarock Park 9/21-9/24
- New Program planned for the Fall – Disc Golf

## 5) OLD BUSINESS

### a) Haw River Trail Updates:

- NC Senate Bill 100: Jamie and Nolan gave the update that the bill was officially been signed into law on June 10, 2023. The designation will allow more funding opportunities and provide more recognition for the trail system.
- Alamance Volunteer Trail Builders Update: Peter Dahl provided updates on the progress of the volunteer trail builders. The group has less than 300 yards to complete on the Shallow Ford trail extension. At their Saturday workday on June 17, they had 23 volunteers and were able to complete the installation of a fence on the trail in Saxapahaw near the dam.
- Nolan Carter updated the commission that he and Jamie had an opportunity to take local government leaders on a paddle trip along the Haw River earlier this month. He noted that seeing the beauty of this natural resource first hand is always impactful and provides great exposure to both the Haw River Trail and the Department.

### b) Department Budget: Jamie reported that the county budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year was approved by the Board of Commissioners on June 19. The Department will receive their final itemized budget in the coming weeks.

### c) Expiring Commission Seats: Jamie confirmed that David Woody and Mike Dunning were reappointed to the Parks Commission by the Board of Commission on their June 19



## Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2023 at 6:00pm

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

meeting. One vacant board seat remains after Lee Isley's term expiration on June 30. Commissioner Lashley will advise on efforts to fill this seat.

### 6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Annual Election of Officers: Lee Isley initiated the process of electing new officers. Upon the motion of Peter Dahl and second of Craig Yokeley, Lisa Wolff was unanimously selected as the Chairman of the Commission. Upon the motion of David Woody and second of Craig Yokeley, Peter Dahl was unanimously selected as the Vice-Chair of the Commission.
  
- b) Department Promotions and Outreach: Members of the commission brought forward ideas to park staff regarding promotion and outreach to the community. Peter Dahl suggested that the Department engage in more community tabling events and festivals to get the word out about offered programs, parks and volunteer opportunities. He suggested that members of the friends group would be willing to help staff these events. Kelly Ronnow noted that she would like to see more signage around the park in central locations. Department staff encouraged commission members to continue to send these ideas.

### 7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12pm by acclamation.