



Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2024 6 PM

Alamance Parks Office • 3916 R. Dean Coleman Rd. Burlington, NC 27215

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Chair Ms. Lisa Wolff, Vice-Chair Mr. Peter Dahl, Mr. David Woody, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Mr. Mike Dunning, Dr. Harold Kernodle, Elizabeth Read

ALAMANCE PARKS STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Merchel – Director, Chase Parrish - Grants and Communications Coordinator

1) COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Call to Order at 6:05 and Establish Quorum at 6:08
- b) Review and approval of the Sept 17 minutes, motion carries

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

- a) ABSS middle school cross country championship was held at Cedarock Park at the last minute, compliments to Jamie and team for making it a seamless event and partnership with ABSS.

4) REPORT OF STAFF

- a) Past events: Sneeky Pete Disc Golf Tournament at Cedarock Park, several Cross Country meets at Cedarock Park, ABSS Farm to Table event at Cedarock Historical Farm, FFA in Cedarock (learning how to measure trees)
- b) Glencoe – Hedgehog Holdings is moving forward with progress on mill race
- c) Special Olympics Golf Tournament hosted by Burlington Shag Club, over \$7000 raised to go towards SOAC.
- d) Parks Superintendent Open Position Update – Second Interviews are currently underway, decision to be made and offer extended soon.

5) OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

- a) Athletics Update
 - i) Parks department presented the athletics model to county commissioners last month, feedback received was the question of whether or not there could be a way for both models to exist. We are now having meetings with the clubs to discuss what that would look like and the process of running club football and baseball. Club basketball is also up for discussion, but would likely involve other clubs. To make this work would likely require additional funding in the budget as well as the addition of an athletics programmer position to the department to help handle the workload. We are planning to come to the next commissioner’s meeting in November prepared with the items needed to make this logistically possible.

- ii) Athletics in November consists of Indoor Soccer, Volleyball, Kickball, Floorball (a last minute idea added to the list) and Ultimate Frisbee.
- iii) Jamie and Chase had a meeting with AO PTA President discussing our athletics program, how we can partner with the school to better benefit the interests and needs of students and their families.
- b) LWF Grant Award and AQ next steps
 - i) We were awarded \$4m out of our \$10m ask. The landfill will be purchasing about 190 acres. We have met with the conservation fund to see if there's a way we can work with them to buy the land and pay them back overtime.
- c) Cane Creek
 - i) Phase 3 – bids for sitework are out (parking lot, driveway, trailhead etc.)
 - ii) Tower structure is done, steps are being fabricated. Completion may be late November, early December depending on steps.
- d) BE Jordan
 - i) Waiting for quotes to come back on sitework and grading

6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Future Grant Applications
 - i) Accessibility for Parks Grant – 2nd round available, due date in March of 2025. Looking at options for making current facilities more accessible. Possibly at Cedarock Rock Park or at Cane Creek (Long Leaf). Once area has been chosen, we will seek board and public input on what the biggest needs may be.
 - ii) Great Trails Grant – Due Nov 12th, this will be applied towards the Shallow Ford Natural Area expansion plan
 - iii) NC Amateur Sports Grant – Due Nov 1st, Chase is partnering with Jason and Guil on what the biggest needs are when applying for funds to purchase youth sports equipment that would most benefit the department in the future.
 - iv) Land and Water – will be applying again to hopefully pay the conservation fund back if that route works in our favor.
 - v) PARTF – applying to possibly build out Troxler property or the Carolina Mill property.

7) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Upcoming programs and events
 - i) This Saturday, 10/19 is Great Trails State Day and we will be promoting it on social media all week.
 - ii) Follow up email with an overview will be sent out to board members.

8) ADJOURNMENT

- a) Meeting adjourned at 7:19pm

Next Meeting Tuesday November 19, 12:30pm at May Memorial Library