



Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2025, 6pm

Pleasant Grove Community Center 3958 N Nc HWY 49. Burlington, NC 27217

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chair Ms. Lisa Wolff, Vice-Chair Mr. Peter Dahl, Commissioner Ed Priola, Mr. David Woody, Dr. Harold Kernodle, Mike Dunning, Mr. Thomas Purcell, Elizabeth Read, Lee Isley

ALAMANCE PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Jamie Merchel – Director, Chase Parrish – Grants and Communications Coordinator, Nolan Carter – Trails and Open Space Coordinator

1) COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Call to Order and Establish Quorum
 - i) Meeting called to order at 6:05pm, quorum established
- b) Review and approval of the March 18th minutes
 - i) Motion to approve, motion carries

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) Gerald Gilbert with Barefoot Traditional Archery was present to inquire about the communication regarding his program being shared with the Alamance Parks' archery program participants. Chair Lisa Wolff suggested this discussion be moved to "New Business".

3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

- a) Lisa shared her feedback on the cane creek tower ribbon cutting event and congratulated the staff on the success of the event as well as the overall recent successful efforts made by the department in recent months.

4) REPORT OF STAFF

- a) Staff presentation: PARTF Grant Application for Carolina Mill
 - i) Nolan shared an overview of the proposed project at the site where the Carolina Mill once stood. This covered the funds requested, anticipated work involved and possible amenities that could be added in the future. Nolan asked the group for feedback on the project. Mrs. Read mentioned the need for addressing remediation of the area. She also mentioned the possibility of yard games such as horseshoes. Mr. Dahl mentioned focusing on the parking lot aspect in the hopes of maximizing access and awareness of the trail system. Members also spoke about the possibility of some type of canoe/kayak rental access. Also, the need for interpretive signage throughout the park on wildlife and history. Motion to approve department application. Motion carried.
- b) Director's Update
 - i) Director Jamie Merchel shared success stories around the 2025 Alamance AIR basketball tournament, VIP Mini Golf Tournament and we placed 2nd, 2025 Spring Games was a huge success this year at the Elon Schar Center, Cane Creek Phase 2 Ribbon Cutting was also a success, the department put on a self-paced easter egg hunt throughout 3 park locations which was very well received and an easy way to provide some fun for families throughout the county, we have a park tech position open as well as a gate

- closer position that have both been posted for the public.
- ii) Three board seats are going to be opening up soon. We will present the applications at a future meeting for consideration.

5) OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

- a) Cane Creek Tower
 - i) Jamie spoke with the engineer and the crews are actively working on the corrections of the steps. The railings are the next (and hopefully last) item to be addressed and will hopefully be reviewed during the week of 4/28-5/2.
- b) Cane Creek Phase 3 Parking Lot Construction status
 - i) Parking lot is flattened out, waiting for a date on when the crew will begin installation.
- c) BE Jordan Ballfield status
 - i) Picnic shelter is now installed, needs to be stained and now the concrete can now begin for the parking lot. Finishing touches to be done before a grand re-opening sometime in the Summer.
- d) Village Of Alamance status
 - i) We received bids for the concrete skirt leading to the parking lot, waiting for a 3rd bid to come back before making a decision.
- e) 25-26 Budget Update
 - i) Jamie is meeting with County Management on Friday 4/25 to discuss the proposed operating budget for 25-26. County management reviewed the capital improvement plan and Jamie provided a copy for the board to review.

6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) ALCOVETS Balloon Festival Update
 - i) A new proposed date for the next festival at Cedarock Park was discussed and agreed to be Mother's Day weekend of 2026.
- b) Programming Partnership Opportunity – Preservation Alamance
 - i) Preservation Alamance is considering offering a class on historic building preservation and renovation that they would offer to the public. They would like to bring students at the end of the program to the Cedarock Park to work on preservation and restoration needs on the historic structures located there. The board expressed their support for further discussion about this partnership.
- c) Archery
 - i) Commissioner Ed Priola proposed a motion for the parks director to consult the county attorney on any legal barriers for allowing Barefoot Traditional Archery a 3 minute public commentary in front of archery participants with Alamance Parks. A second motion was proposed by David Woody. Motion carries.

7) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Upcoming Community Outreach and Public Input Session Assistance
 - i) 4/28 Public Input Meeting from 6-7pm for the Carolina Mill Community Park
 - ii) 5/2 Audrey Garrett Elementary Spring Fling 5-7pm
 - iii) 5/17 Pleasant Grove Elementary Spring Fling 12-4pm
 - iv) 5/17 Haw River Camp & Clean
- b) Upcoming Programs and Events
 - i) 4/26 Founder's Day Celebration at Glencoe
 - ii) 5/3 Cedarock Family Campout
 - iii) 5/10 Sports Palooza at Cedarock Park
 - iv) 5/17 Cedarock Trail Run
 - v) 5/30 Concert in the Park "Sweet T & The Biscuits"

c) Group Paddle after our June 17th Meeting (12:30 meeting) please RSVP by May 20th

8) ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:32pm

Next Meeting May 20th B Everette Jordan Ballfield Picnic Shelter