



## Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

Sept 16, 2025, 6:00pm

Cedarock Park Farm 3916 R Dean Coleman Rd. Burlington, NC 27215

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Chair Ms. Lisa Wolff, Vice-Chair Mr. Peter Dahl, Commissioner Ed Priola, Dr. Charles Parker, Mr. David Woody, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Mr. Mike Dunning, Dr. Harold Kernodle, Mr. Lee Isley, Dr. Janet MacFall

### **ALAMANCE PARKS STAFF PRESENT:**

Jamie Merchel – Director, Chase Parrish – Grants & Communications Coordinator, Nolan Carter – Trails & Open Space Coordinator, Mike Scott – Parks Superintendent, Terry Isley – Cedarock Park Manager

### **1) COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) Call to Order and Establish Quorum
  - i) Meeting called to order at 6:07pm, quorum established
- b) Review and approval of the Aug Meeting Minutes
  - i) Motion made to approve the August Meeting Minutes made by vice-chair Peter Dahl, motion carried

### **2) PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

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

- a) Staff presentation: Terry Isley – Cedarock Park
  - i) Overview of projects over the past year:
    - Red barn stained and new doors installed, new mule added to the farm named Kate who is a companion for Clyde
    - Upgrades to farm museum walls to better display farm tools and equipment for viewing
    - Cedarock Equestrian Center Horse Trail improvements and upgrades
    - Installed connect 4 and cement ping pong table at the new Cedarock playground
    - Cedarock Park hosted the NC Envirothon (about 900-1000 kids)
    - Kiosk/Information Boards added at both restrooms and the playground in Cedarock Park to better communicate upcoming programs and events
    - Volunteer Coordinator Barbara Montanero arranged multiple volunteer events in Cedarock Park to re-stain all wood amenities throughout the park
    - July of 2025 was when Tropical Storm Chantal created the worst flooding and damage that has occurred at Cedarock Park within the past 30 years. A lot of work has been completed, but recovery efforts continue. 4 bridges needed to be repaired/replaced as well as a new cement pad at one of the Regulator tees.
    - Upcoming events include the 2025 Sneaky Pete disc golf tournament, Farm to Table at Cedarock Historical Farm and the Run at the Rock race

- b) Director's Update
  - i) Director Jamie Merchel acknowledged Mike Scott, Terry Isley, Dusty Cantley and their teams for all of their hard work during the storm recovery efforts over the past 2 months.
  - ii) President Trump has recently signed off on the release of federal funds to assist in recovery expenses related to Tropical Storm Chantal. Director Jamie Merchel will be having conversations in the future about how this can help the department.
  - iii) Shoutout to Chase for the creative marketing approach to advertising The Overlook wedding venue at Cedarrock Park.
  - iv) A big thank you to Grace with the Alamance Visitors Bureau for partnering with Outdoor NC in putting together a video highlighting ways to explore Alamance County with a couple of features throughout the Alamance Parks system.
  - v) Programs Superintendent Jason Witherspoon partnered with Roadless Races to allow Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area to host the first Cane Creek Mountain Trail Run, which was a great success and increased the awareness of the area and the new observation tower.
  - vi) Congrats to Nolan and his wife on the arrival of their new baby girl!

## **5) OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES**

- a) Major Projects Dashboard
  - i) Jamie Merchel had everyone review the newly created project dashboard which explains completion percentage, funding sources and recent updates
- b) Tropical Storm Chantal Recovery
  - i) Saxapahaw Island Park northern section remains closed as work continues. Saxapahaw Mill Trail also requires continued work in partnership with Reverence Farms.
  - ii) Chair Lisa Wolff proposed the question to Commissioner Ed Priola if the Friends of Mountains to Sea Trail Alamance County Task Force could be recognized in a future county commissioner meeting for all of the hard work that they have put in towards building trails and maintaining existing trails.
- c) Glencoe Mill Race
  - i) Hedgehog Holdings are expected to submit a plan to address the issues in the area. It is possible that a coffer dam may be a solution but would not offer a long-term solution to the gate. Director Jamie Merchel will continue to be involved in the conversations to be able to provide future updates.
- d) Sponsorship Committee Update
  - i) Lisa, Kelley, Jamie and Chase met in August to review the existing sponsorship policy for Alamance Parks. Revisions are being made and will be presented at the October board meeting for review and approval then presented to county commissioners for approval. The policy will be shared with the public in January 2026 as well as an abbreviated sponsorship packet for year-round opportunities.
- e) RFP – Comprehensive Master Plan
  - i) The RFP is still being reviewed by the county's legal team. We are anticipating hopefully having someone under contract by January/February 2026.

## **6) NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Upcoming Programs and Events
  - i) Please refer to the August Monthly Report
- b) Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities
  - i) We still need volunteers for the upcoming Trunk or Treat events (October 24 and 30)
- c) 2026 Meeting Schedule and Locations
  - i) Vice Chair Peter Dahl made a motion to keep the meeting times staggered, motion

- carried
- d) Familiarity Tour Interest
    - i) Director Jamie Merchel asked the group about interest in a tour through the various Alamance Parks locations to provide more insight into the department's footprint and current projects.

## **7) ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a) 2025 PARTF Grant Award
  - i) We have been awarded the PARTF grant for phase 1 of the proposed project at Carolina Mill. We are waiting for a press release from the Governor before sharing with the public.

## **8) ADJOURNMENT**

- a) Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.

Next Meeting Tuesday October 21st 6:00pm Alamance Parks Admin Office  
Group Paddle Friday September 19<sup>th</sup> Meet at 1:30pm