



Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

Jan 20, 2026, 12:00pm

3916 R Dean Coleman Rd. Burlington, NC 27215

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ALAMANCE PARKS STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Merchel – Director, Chase Parrish – Grants & Communications Coordinator, Michael Scott – Parks Superintendent, Nolan Carter – Trails & Open Space Coordinator

1) COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Call to Order and Establish Quorum
 - i) Meeting called to order at 12:12pm, quorum established
- b) Review and approval of the Nov 2025 Meeting Minutes
 - i) Motion to approve made by David Woody, motion carried

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

- a) Vice-Chair Peter Dahl shared that the trail volunteers have worked on the trails at CCMNA for exactly 2 years. Over the course of that time 80 volunteers worked a total of 3,034 hours, currently the trail is 99% complete. All of this work could not have been made possible without Ron Uthus, who offered various equipment and resources throughout the process.

4) REPORT OF STAFF

- a) Director's Update
 - i) Director Jamie Merchel provided an overview of the December Monthly Report and recapped events and programs that occurred in December as well as facility/park updates. Jamie also mentioned upcoming programs and events to expect in January and February.
 - ii) The department has officially closed on our latest land acquisition project of a total of approximately 800 acres. This land will add another 2.75 miles to the Haw River Trail and 1.25 miles to the MST.

5) OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

- a) Major Projects Dashboard
 - i) Director Jamie Merchel presented an updated projects dashboard to the board to show where current projects stand.
- b) Tropical Storm Chantal Recovery - FEMA
 - i) Jamie and Mike have been meeting with the local FEMA rep weekly to continue reviewing work that has been completed and still needs to be completed. Updates to come in the future about department reimbursement.

- c) Glencoe Mill Race
 - i) No new updates since the last meeting
- d) Comprehensive Master Plan – Reviewing Proposals
 - i) Submissions have been reviewed and have narrowed down the options to 3 firms. We are waiting for county management to review and provide feedback before making a decision.

6) NEW BUSINESS

- a.) Haw River Trail 20th Anniversary Year
 - a. Each municipality that is involved in the Haw River State Trail will kick off the year of celebration with a local proclamation. A list of activities and events happening in each municipality throughout the year will be created and shared with the public.
 - b. Dr. Janet MacFall requested that Elon University’s involvement in the early years of the Haw River Trail be recognized.
- b.) 2026 PARTF Grant Application – Alston Quarter Development
 - a. Expect a grant proposal soon for this application. This application will focus on the installation of the new park access road and hopefully the beginning of the two park trailheads.

7) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Registration open now for:
 - i) Intro to Sports – Pleasant Grove
 - ii) Intro to Dog Sports – Eli Whitney
 - iii) Spring Baseball/Softball – Pleasant Grove and BE Jordan
 - iv) Spring Archery (Eli Whitney and Pleasant Grove)
 - v) *New* Intermediate Archery – PG Only
- b) Haw River Experience – New Middle School -Field Trip Program in Glencoe
 - i) Every 8th grade class in ABSS will visit the area over the course of two weeks in March
- c) Alcovets Balloon Festival confirmed for May 8-10 at Cedarock Park

8) ADJOURNMENT

- a) Meeting adjourned at 1:20pm

Next Meeting February 17th 12:00pm – Impact Alamance Board Room