



Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

Feb 17, 2026, 12:00pm

Impact Alamance Board Room 133 E Davis Street Burlington, NC 27215

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

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

1) COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Call to Order and Establish Quorum
 - i) Call to order at 12:01pm, Quorum established
- b) Review and approval of the Jan 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - i) Motion to approve by Vice Chair Peter Dahl, seconded by Dr. Janet MacFall, motion passed

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

- a) Chair Lisa – Recapped the recognition of the trail volunteers and all of the work on Haw River Trail at the commissioners meeting as well as the official proclamation for the HRT 20th anniversary. Lisa and Jamie acknowledged the passing of Commissioner John Paisley.
- b) Peter Dahl – Monday Feb 16, 15 volunteers worked with park staff at sellers falls by replacing a broken fence, replacing an existing bridge that was rotted out and performed additional trail maintenance in anticipation of the upcoming Spring season.

4) REPORT OF STAFF

- a) Director's Update
 - i) Jamie introduced Nicole McGinty from Impact Alamance to the board who joined the meeting to provide an update on the Impact Alamance App
 - ii) Youth basketball wrapped up with a Glow celebration
 - iii) Alamance Outdoor programming kicked off in January with 1 program a month and so far each program has reached maximum participation. Upcoming programs consist of Orienteering in March as well as a Star Party at the observatory in April.
 - iv) Jamie shared the news that our historical properties superintendent John Guss was involved in an automobile accident this month and during his recovery the Textile Heritage Museum is working under modified operating hours while the museum's volunteer is helping out.

5) OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

- a) Active Alamance App Update – Nicole McGinty, Impact Alamance
 - i) Nicole shared an update on the Active Alamance App with the board. The app has been shared with the public for just over 7 months with nearly 3,500 downloads. An overview of various app features was provided with a highlight on how it helps guide users to parks and opportunities that they may not have known about. Board member Elizabeth Read shared her positive feedback after using the app and how easy it is to navigate while looking for specific things.

- b) Major Projects Dashboard
 - i) The board was given an updated major projects dashboard, very minimal changes across the board since the January meeting.
- c) Tropical Storm Chantal Recovery - FEMA
 - i) Jamie shared that the county will soon be receiving their first obligated funds from FEMA (not just our department). These funds are for the first expenses that were incurred during the first 48-72 hours of the storm. Our included items such as a portion of the downed trees and cleanup. Sax Island debris removal is still pending. Additional damages that were claimed (in Cedarock Park and along the HRT) are being reviewed for projected costs.
- d) Comprehensive Master Plan Update
 - i) No substantial update. Jamie continues to work on this.
- e) 26-27 Operating Budget Requests due March 12th
- f) HRT History Follow Up
 - i) Chair Lisa informed the board that the history of the HRT that was previously talked about by Dr. Janet MacFall was officially submitted to director Jamie Merchel. Information is being reviewed to officially share on multiple platforms as we celebrate the HRT 20th anniversary.

6) NEW BUSINESS

- a.) 2026 PARTF Grant Application – Alston Quarter Development
 - a. The board was presented a grant proposal for the upcoming 2026 PARTF Grant application cycle. This application would be for \$500,000 to go towards the development of Alston Quarter phase 1, which would include a trailhead (with restroom facility), hiking trails, mountain bike trails and campsites. Trails and Open Space Coordinator Nolan Carter provided the board with a projected timeline should we receive this grant and what to anticipate. Commissioner Ed Priola requested a copy of the application guide be sent to him for review. Director Jamie Merchel requested that the board consider the information provided and make a motion to support. Vice Chair Peter Dahl made a motion to approve the department's application. A second motion was made and the motion carried.
- b.) Special Olympics Spring Games Sponsorship Opportunities
 - a. Director Jamie Merchel reminded the board about sponsorship opportunities for SOAC Spring Games and how crucial fundraising is for SOAC to maintain programs offered to Alamance County athletes.
- c.) March Meeting – request to move date or location
 - a. Director Jamie Merchel presented a request to the board to either move the date or location of the March meeting. A motion was made to move the March 17th meeting to 12pm at Cedarock Park. A 2nd motion was made and motion carried.
- d.) Baseball Coaches Needed
 - a. Baseball registration is open and we are actively looking for coaches for the upcoming season.

7) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Upcoming Programs and Events
 - Red Robin SOAC Fundraiser 2/19
 - Spring Archery – 1 spot left for PG 5pm Class, 2 spots left in intermediate class
 - March Intro to Sports @ PG – FULL
 - Orienteering Program March 14th – FULL
 - Baseball Registration open through March – Coaches Needed

- College Disc Golf Carolinas Championship – Feb 21st and 22nd @ CRP
- Southern Alamance Softball Scrimmage Jamboree – Feb 21st @ BEJ and EMH Ballfields in addition to Southern High School and Mt. Herman Civitan Fields
- BARK ProAm Disc Golf Tournament Mar 7-8 @ CRP

8) ADJOURNMENT

- a) Meeting adjourned at 1:10pm

Next meeting is March 17th, 12pm at Cedarock Park Admin Office