



Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2026, 6:00pm

Alamance Parks Admin Office 3916 R Dean Coleman Dr. Burlington, NC 27215

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

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

ALAMANCE PARKS STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Merchel – Director, Chase Parrish – Grants & Communications Coordinator, Michael Scott – Parks Superintendent

1) COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Call to Order and Establish Quorum
 - Meeting called to order at 6:02pm
 - Quorum established
- b) Review and approval of the March 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - Motion – Vice Chair Peter Dahl, Second – Kelly Ronnow, Motion Passed

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) No public comment

3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

- a) Chair Lisa Wolff has no new updates for the group

4) REPORT OF STAFF

- a) Director's Update
 - Director Jamie Merchel made the board aware of recent trainings that have been completed including Dusty Cantley and Zack Lamb attending the Park Rangers Institute, Michael Scott attended the ADA Compliance Workshop and Nolan Carter attended the Piedmont Legacy Trails Summit where Senator Amy Galey was honored. All FT staff are now up to date on CPR and AED training.
 - Chase is working on a few grant closeouts that are coming up over the next several weeks. Nolan and Jamie are working on gathering documents to close on NCLWF.
 - County commissioners granted approval for the PARTF grant application for funds to go towards the alston quarter phase 1 development
 - The first public input meeting happened in saxapahaw for AQ phase 1, various requests/feedback received but overwhelmingly shows a need for mountain bike trails and an excitement for future outdoor recreation possibilities. The next public input meeting will be Thursday, April 23rd at the Carousel room in Burlington City Park
 - Active Alamance 9-month update – 3,680 downloads currently, app is performing very well. Their goal is to reach 5,000 downloads by the end of the year
 - Programming – Countywide easter egg hunt with 5 winners, Glencoe saw about 1000 8th graders throughout March while ABSS middle schools visited to learn more about the Haw River and the Textile Heritage Museum, April 2nd Uncle Eli Quilting Party, SOAC Spring Games at Elon University – April 2nd, 368 athletes and over 800 volunteers, Haw River Thru Paddle – April 10-12th 26 total participants, Cedarock Trail Run – April 11th, Haw River Assembly 5k at Sax Island – April 11th,

Baseball/Softball/Tee-Ball currently running, Textile Heritage Museum dedication of two portraits of EM Holt and Emily Holt happened recently. Alamance Outdoors series continues with recent programs consisting of Bluebird education, stargazing at the observatory and an orienteering how-to, AIR basketball tournament happened on April 18th where the winning team was the Burlington Police Department, Archery is wrapping up this month

- Park techs have wrapped up most of the work at Village of Alamance Paddle Access with just a couple of components left before officially opening, park techs also replaced wooden steps at sax mill trail with gravel to make it a sloped ramp instead of steps

5) OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

a) Major Projects Dashboard

- Director Jamie Merchel presented the board with an updated major projects dashboard
- Vice chair Peter Dahl asked about the timeline of when trail building can continue beyond the landfill stretch at Alston Quarter. Jamie noted that trail construction cannot exceed beyond the landfill property yet until we have closed out with NCLWF and the trail plan has been approved. When the time comes, we will let the volunteers know that work can move forward.
- Elizabeth Read complimented the work done at B Everett Jordan and gave kudos to the team that made it happen.

b) Tropical Storm Chantal Recovery - FEMA On Hold

- No new updates as FEMA is still on hold due to the partial government shutdown

c) Glencoe Dam Update

- Piedmont Conservation Council is applying for a grant for funds to develop a plan to properly remove the plan. Preservation North Carolina is on board with the plan with the hopes that the dam's history will be preserved through the plan. Future updates to come when available.

d) Seats Expiring June 30, 2026; Elizabeth, David, Mike

- Applications are available online for those who would like to reapply

e) Comprehensive Master Plan Next Steps

- Community Open Survey and Project Website to be live before Saturday 4/25
- Public Input Sessions – Master Plan Update
 - April 25th 10am – 2pm; Mebane Dogwood Festival
 - May 2nd 10am – 2pm – Burlington Carousel Festival
 - Ongoing April 27th – June 12th Mon – Fri 9am – 4pm @ Alamance Parks Admin Office
 - Parks Advisory Commission Meeting #1 5/19 12pm (Regular meeting time)
 - A request was made to make sure that virtual attendance is an option

2) NEW BUSINESS

a) Budget Meeting with County Manager 4/22 for 26-27 Request

b) Managers Recommended Budget to County Commissioners May 18th

3) ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Upcoming Programs and Events

- An emailed recap will be sent to board members with a list of upcoming programs and events

b) Public Input Sessions – PARTF Alston Quarter

- April 23rd 6pm – Carousel Room Burlington (Coffee & Conversation)

4) ADJOURNMENT

a) Meeting adjourned at 7:11pm

Next Meeting Tuesday May 19th 12pm – Master Plan Session with McGill Associates