



Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 21, 2026, 12:00pm

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Chair Ms. Lisa Wolff, Vice-Chair Mr. Peter Dahl, Mr. David Woody, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, 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 12:02pm, quorum established
- b) Review and approval of the May 2026 Meeting Minutes
 - Motion to approve made by David Woody, seconded by Peter Dahl, motion passed

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) No one from the public present

3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

- a) Advisory Council Reappointments
 - Members Elizabeth Read, Mike Dunning and David Woody were all reappointed
- b) Chair/Vice Chair Elections for 26-27
 - Vice-Chair Peter Dahl made a motion to reappoint Lisa Wolff to Chair, motion seconded and approved
 - David Woody made a motion to reappoint Peter Dahl to Vice-Chair, motion seconded and approved

4) REPORT OF STAFF

- a) Director Jamie Merchel reminded everyone that July is Parks and Recreation Month, Jamie proposed the idea to the board that the department celebrate on July 29th with an ice cream bar during a site visit to observe recent park improvements made in neighboring parks
- b) Nate Halubka, McGill Associates – Master Plan Update
 - Nate summarized where the process is at the moment
 - We are 5 surveys short of hitting the overall target number sample size for the statistically valid survey
 - We have surpassed our goal for open survey responses, the survey will remain open through the end of July
 - A conversation with a local economic development planner will be had to discuss things planned for Alamance County
 - Nate shared some of the preliminary findings including budget analysis, population growth etc.
 - The public input opportunities have concluded, and Nate shared the data collected from those meetings showing where the higher and lower interest areas fall

5) OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

- a) Projects Dashboard Review
 - Director Jamie Merchel asked the board to review the updated dashboard and briefly covered some of the main points.
- b) David Woody mentioned the exceptional job that the parks staff did on the new accessible ramp at Eli Whitney Community Center and also shared that he has heard/been asked about installing air conditioning and the community centers multiple times. He asked if the department could look into getting a quote to see if it can be considered in the future to refrain from closing the community centers throughout the Summer each year due to unsafe indoor temperatures.

6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Director Jamie Merchel informed the board that the department is in the process of potentially accepting a property donation. The property is local to Cedarock Park and is around 113 acres. There are 2 residential structures on the property. The current owner does not want the property to be developed but wants it to be protected and used for natural recreation for future generations. David Woody asked about communication with the property owner and nearby neighbors. Director Jamie Merchel asked the board for their support of the acceptance of this land donation. Vice-Chair Peter Dahl made a motion to approve the department's efforts to accept the land donation, this motion was seconded and motion carried.

7) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Jamie Merchel shared the upcoming SOAC Firetruck Pull with the board that is happening in September and asked everyone to please share the information with their family, friends etc.

8) ADJOURNMENT

- a) Meeting adjourned at 1:31pm

Next Meeting Tuesday August 18th 6pm – Alamance Parks Admin Office