



Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2024 12:30 pm

Saxapahaw Island Park, 550 Church Rd., Graham NC

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Chair Ms. Lisa Wolff, Vice-Chair Mr. Peter Dahl, Mr. David Woody, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Mr. Thomas Purcell, Mr. Craig Yokeley, Ms. Elizabeth Read

ALAMANCE PARKS STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Merchel, Director; Jason Witherspoon, Program Superintendent, Dusty Cantley, Northern & Southern Parks Manager, Dianne Neese, Office Manager

PUBLIC PRESENT: NA

1) COMMUNICATIONS

- a) The meeting was called to order and a quorum established at 12:30 pm
- b) The April 16, 2024 meeting minutes were approved unanimously upon the motion of Peter Dahl and second of Craig Yokeley.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

None

4) REPORT OF STAFF

- a) Dusty Cantley: Dusty oversees the Northern/Southern Parks, River Parks and Cane Creek Mt. Natural Area. The park maintenance staff are a valuable part in keeping all of our parks, trails, walking tracks, athletic fields well maintained and safe for all visitors. They serve the community through maintenance of 19 parks. This includes trail maintenance, building of trails, cleanup of debris, installation and replacing bridges, building of Disc Golf Courses, pressure washing, cleanup after storms and floods, maintaining athletic fields among other duties. Dusty also shared there would be a new 9-hole disc Golf course installed at Pleasant Grove soon, a bridge at Great Bend Park. A Student from OE enterprises will be working at Pleasant Grove Community Center this summer. Eli Whitney Gym has a roof leak that will be addressed as well as lighting going down stairs to workout room and manuals for machines. Dusty also thanked the volunteer group for all the hard work on the trails. There was mention of hosting a major disc golf event at Cedarock Park in 2026-2027 and extending the Sneaky Pete Disc Golf tournament to a 3-day event.
- b) Grants and Communications Position:
 - 34 people applied for position
 - Jamie and committee reviewed the applicants and choose 10 to send written response questions and request to create a program flyer
 - The committee held interviews of 3 applicants
 - An applicant was selected and Jamie is working with HR to come up with a plan for an offer for the position.

5) OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

a) Haw River Trail

- Peter provided Haw River Trail updates. Volunteer trail builders completed a .2-mile trail near the paddle access at highway 54 in Graham.
- The volunteer group is working on trail issues from Great Bend to Indian Valley
- Discussed land easement near Glen Raven and Shallow Ford to expand outdoor recreation opportunities.

b) Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area Development

- Tower construction is underway, with the start of the footings.
- The Department has quotes for the Engineering of Phase 3 parking lot
- Volunteer Group are doing work on trails
- Beams are ready for bridge

c) Cedarrock Park Playground

- The playground and parking lot are complete. The next step is fencing and grading the perimeter of playground. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held May 31st at 4:00 pm.
- We are hosting our first musical chair concert which will start at 6:30 pm with
- Reminder that volunteer appreciation event will also be held in conjunction with the concert at the farm on the 31st as well.

d) BE Jordan Ballfield Renovation

- Tree trimming complete, old lights and buildings have been removed
- Jamie reported we are in the process of getting the final drawings for concession/bathrooms and will be getting bids for site work and prep.
- Working on plans for fencing and dugouts
- Will be getting new scoreboards and equipment in the fall
- New lights will be installed soon.

e) Great Alamance Creek

- The Village of Alamance Paddle Access is on hold until the donation from Duke Energy is finalized. Nolan is working with Duke Energy to sign over the property.

f) Programing/Athletics

- Summer Camps are open for registration, they will be All Sports Camps where different program ideas will be tested and feedback collected from the participants to help with future program planning.
- Alamance Athletics - Guil is working on recruiting for the fall. He is having conversations with PE teachers and coaches in ABSS to start with.
- Football signups will start June 1st for the clubs and Mebane Rec, Practices start Aug 5 and Games Sept 9. The 2024 recreation league will have 5 teams (Mebane, Gibsonville, Alamance Civitan, Northern Alamance and Hawfields Civitan
- Equestrian – No interest or response with the existing Request for Proposal. Will adjust the RFP. Looking for a vender to pay or revenue share to come in once month with horses to offer trail rides.
- Jamie will inquire if the county liability insurance would cover a vendor

6) NEW BUSINESS

a) AC Managers proposed Budget 24-25

- Alamance County Manager Heidi York presented the proposed 24-25 budget to Commissioners, County Commissioners will have a work session in June, Public Hearing will be June 3rd
- Parks Budget is flat lines in proposed budget, no new positions, vehicles or equipment.
- We were the recipients of a mini-excavator from the landfill. They replaced theirs and were gracious to pass the old one on to us. The landfill also assisted us with repairs to our skid steer and modifying one of our dump trucks.

b) A request was made to move the June 18th meeting scheduled at Cane Creek Mt. Natural Area to the fall when the tower should be completed. The June 18th meeting will be held at Cedarrock Park Office at 6:00 pm

7) Connecting Communities Grant – Ossipee

a) Town of Ossipee is asking for a \$100,000.00 grant to acquire the Troxler property next to AO Ballfield with plans to turn it into a park and paddle access. We are assisting in the grant application process for a Connecting Communities Grant through Complete the Trails. Application is due May 29th.

8) ADJOURNMENT

Lisa Wolff adjourned the meeting at 1:35 pm.