

ALAMANCE COUNTY
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020 MEETING
ALAMANCE COUNTY ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM
201 W. ELM STREET, GRAHAM NC 27253

MINUTES

Members Present (Underlined): Chairman Lee Isley, Vice-Chair Kelly May, Mr. John Paisley, Commissioner Bill Lashley, Mr. Earl Jagers, Ms. Ann Meletzke, Mr. Kirk Puckett, Ms. Pamela Thompson, Ms. Bhavna Hilligrass.

Alamance Parks Staff Present: Brian Baker, Director; Jason Witherspoon, Program Superintendent; Anna Bowland, Grants & Communications Coordinator

I. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order and a quorum was established at 12:36pm

B. **Approval of the June 16, 2020 Minutes**

Upon a motion of John Paisley, and the second of Earl Jagers, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2020 meeting.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public submitted comments or were present.

III. **REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

None

IV. **REPORT OF STAFF**

A. **Monthly Departmental Report**

Director Brian Baker presented the monthly report for July. He highlighted that park attendance continues to be high and more visitors are enjoying the parks. He reported that the construction of the equestrian barn at Cedarrock Park is nearly complete and is expected to be ready for use in early 2021. Additionally, the Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area is now open without the need to secure a reservation. When the park opened in May, a reservation system was in place to avoid overcrowding. As of August 15, the reservation requirement is no longer in place.

IV. **UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS**

None

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Adopt a Park/Park Sponsorship**

Kelly May proposed the idea of implementing a park sponsorship program within Alamance Parks. This program could function as a friends group where members pay a small fee to join and are able to adopt individual trails or parks and commit to assisting with routine cleanup. Kelly cited similar programs that were in place at other area Recreation & Parks departments including the City of Raleigh. The committee agreed to add the item to the agenda to discuss at the next meeting. Alamance Parks staff will research some potential ways to implement this program and present them for discussion.

B. **Programs Update: Alamance Adventure Race, Jason Witherspoon**

Programs Superintendent Jason Witherspoon provided an update on program offerings within the department. Plans for the summer and fall have been shifted due to the COVID pandemic, but the department remains busy assisting other staff and facilitating online programming. He reported that the virtual Backyard Campout event held in early summer attracted over 1,000 participants. On September 26, Alamance Parks will host Alamance Adventure Race, which is a county-wide scavenger hunt. Using the app “Turfhunt” teams of up to 4 people will locate challenges and collect as many points as possible. The event is social distancing compliant and will focus on providing participants with the opportunity to learn and explore all areas of Alamance County. The hunt will include park locations throughout the county as well as locally-owned restaurants and businesses. The programming staff is working with other groups such as Elon University and Burlington Recreation and Parks to promote and develop the race.

C. **Commission Appointments**

Chairman Lee Isley reported that the commission terms for himself and Kirk Puckett were expiring. Chairman Isley has agreed to serve an additional term. Kirk Puckett will be stepping down from the commission and a new member will need to be appointed. This will be added as an agenda item for discussion during the next meeting.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 1:37pm upon the motion of Earl Jaggers and the second of Pamela Thompson.

Respectfully Submitted, Brian Baker