

ALAMANCE COUNTY
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021 MEETING
ALAMANCE PARKS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES – CEDAROCK PARK
3916 R. DEAN COLEMAN RD, BURLINGTON NC 27215

MINUTES

Members Present (Underlined): Chairman Lee Isley, Vice-Chair Kelly May, Commissioner Pamela Thompson, Mr. Ryan Bowden, Mr. Earl Jagers, Ms. Ann Meletzke, Ms. Bhavna Hilligrass, Mr. David Woody, Mr. Travis Sapp

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

I. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. The meeting was called to order and a quorum was established at 6:00pm

B. Approval of the February 16, 2021 Minutes

Upon a motion of Earl Jagers, and the second of David Woody, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2021 meeting.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mike Mahon, a candidate for Recreation & Parks Commission membership, was present at the meeting and spoke about his desire to serve on the board. Mr. Mahon grew up on a national wildlife reserve and has great appreciation for parks and recreation in our community.

III. **REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

None

IV. **REPORT OF STAFF**

A. Department Report

Alamance Parks Director Brian Baker presented the monthly departmental report for February. He reported that work is ongoing on the new Longleaf Trail at Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area. This will be the third trail opened in the park and is expected to open during the summer of 2021. Additionally, work is underway at Swepsonville River Park to address erosion issues due to hurricane Florence. The Department received a grant from FEMA to help cover the costs of these repairs.

B. Budget Report

Mr. Baker reported that the Alamance County Board of Commissioners voted to restore funding for youth athletics. Basketball group training sessions have just finished and baseball group training sessions will begin this spring. Additionally, he presented the Alamance Parks budget request summary for the 2021-22 budget cycle and outlined several items of importance.

V. **UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Recreation and Parks Commission Membership**

Brian Baker confirmed that the Alamance County Board of Commissioners approved Mr. Travis Sapp to fill one of the empty membership seats. Candidates for the one remaining seat for reviewed and discussed. Mr. Earl Jagers recommended the appointment of Ms. Kelly Ronnow to the board. This was seconded by Ms. Bhavna Hilligrass. After discussion, the board voted and unanimously approved the recommend Kelly to fill the vacant seat. This recommendation will now be brought before the Alamance County Board of Commissioners to approve.

B. **Park Sponsorship/Friends Group Discussion**

Brian Baker updated the commission that the Department is moving forward with setting up volunteer workdays for trail building at Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area. Ideally, these workdays would operate within the established structure of a Friends Group; however, due to the availability of eager volunteers, and amount of work to be done, it makes sense to begin now. Chairman Isley reiterated that establishing a Friends of Alamance Parks group is important and the board needs to assist the Department in setting up this structure. After some discussion, it was decided that a sub-committee will be created from the board who will assist with the Friends Group development. Bhavna Hilligrass volunteered to help organize working, shared documents to guide this effort. No formal action was taken and the board will revisit this initiative during future meetings.

C. **Additional Disc Golf Course at Cedarock Park**

The commission discussed the proposal from the local disc golf community to install a third, permanent disc golf course at Cedarock Park. Some concerns were raised as to the cost of the project and how this would impact Alamance Parks' budget. Additionally, concern was raised as to the influx of people to the park for tournaments and for regular play. Brian Baker will reach out to the local club who is offering assistance with course installation to confirm some details about cost and location and will provide this information at the next meeting. No official action was taken.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

Earl Jagers commented on the positive press that Alamance Parks and Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area has received lately. Commissioner Thompson remarked that she had also heard positive mentions in the local news and was proud of our local parks system.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:16pm upon the motion of Lee Isley and the second of Earl Jagers.