

ALAMANCE COUNTY  
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, JUNE 15 2021 MEETING  
SAXAPAHAW ISLAND PARK  
5550 CHURCH ROAD, GRAHAM, NC 27253

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, Ms. Kelly Ronnow

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

**Members of the Public Present:** Andrew Sam, Tommy Purcell, Noelle Purcell

I. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. The meeting was called to order and a quorum was established at 6:05pm

B. Approval of the April 20, 2021 Minutes  
Upon a motion of David Woody and the second of Bhavna Hilligrass, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2021 meeting.

II. **PUBLIC HEARING FOR RTP GRANT APPLICATION**

Director Brian Baker presented information regarding the Department's upcoming application for the NC Recreational Trails Program grant for funding for the Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area. A total of \$100,000 will be requested for the development of a trailhead at the park. Matching funds will be satisfied by a previous Clean Water Management Trust Fund grant for the acquisition of the Sizemore property in the park. Work for this project would begin in the spring of 2022.

Comments were made by members of the public Andrew Sam, Tommy Purcell, and Noelle Purcell expressing their support of the project and the grant application. Andrew Sam remarked that the Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area is a "gem within Alamance County and is a wonderful addition to our park system".

Upon the motion of David Woody and the second of Bhavna Hilligrass, the Commission voted unanimously to approve that the Department proceed with the grant application.

III. **REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

None

IV. **REPORT OF STAFF**

Department Report

Brian Baker presented the monthly departmental report for May. He reported that recreational programming is back and staff is returning to their normal job roles. A new Special Populations Coordinator will be hired in the next few weeks. The equestrian barn is nearly complete and horses will be moving in and trail riding sessions will begin within the next several weeks.

V. **UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS**

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

The Commission discussed two new draft layouts for a new disc golf course. Members were given the opportunity to express a preference between the two layouts or to indicate that they were not in favor of either layout. The majority of members preferred “Option A” if a third course were to be developed at the park.

David Woody presented a motion to move forward with the development of a third disc golf course using “Option A”. Kelly May seconded the motion. The Commission voted to proceed with the plan to install the third disc golf course using the “Option A” layout and the motion carried with a vote of 5:2. Voting in favor were: Lee Isley, Kelly May, Pamela Thompson, Ryan Bowden, and David Woody. Voting against proceeding were: Kelly Ronnow and Bhavna Hilligrass. As the next step, Brian Baker will work with the disc golf community and refine the layout.

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

The Commission continued to discuss possible options and structures for a Friends of Alamance Parks Group. Volunteers present who have assisted with trail building at Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area spoke about their work. No formal action was taken and the board will revisit this initiative during future meetings.

C. **Recreation and Parks Commission Membership**

The Commission discussed membership vacancies. The appointments of Kelly Ronnow and Mike Dunning will be presented to the Alamance County Board of Commissioners at the next meeting. In addition, there are two Commission membership vacancies due to Earl Jagggers and Travis Sapp leaving the board. The board agreed to continue to consider applicants who have applied within the past year but to also consider additional applicants who may apply through the next meeting date. Alamance Parks will advertise for the open commission seats and solicit applications. No formal action was taken.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Annual Election of Officers**

Brian Baker initiated the process of electing new officers. Upon the motion of David Woody and second of Kelly May, Lee Isley was unanimously selected as the Chairman of the Commission. Upon the motion of Pamela Thompson and second of Bhavna Hilligrass, Kelly May was unanimously selected as the Vice-Chair of the Commission.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:25pm upon the motion of Kelly May and the second of Bhavna Hilligrass.