

ALAMANCE COUNTY
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021 MEETING
ALAMANCE COUNTY ANNEX CONFERENCE ROOM
201 W. ELM STREET, GRAHAM NC 27253

MINUTES

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

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

Members of the Public Present: Jeffrey Bourne, Peter Dahl, Teresa McCauley, Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson, Lisa Wolff

I. **COMMUNICATIONS**

A. The meeting was called to order and a quorum was established at 12:33pm

B. Approval of the June 15, 2021 Minutes

Upon a motion of David Woody and the second of Bhavna Hilligrass, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2021 meeting.

II. **INTRODUCTION OF RECREATION & PARKS COMMISSION CANDIDATES**

Five candidates were present at the meeting and introduced themselves to the commission. Each candidate detailed their background and reasons for desiring to serve on the board. The candidates in attendance were: Jeffrey Bourne, Peter Dahl, Teresa McCauley, Caitlin Vatikiotis-Bateson, and Lisa Wolff.

III. **REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

None

IV. **REPORT OF STAFF**

Department Report

Brian Baker presented the monthly departmental report for July. Horse trail rides began last month and are very popular. Fall recreation programs are underway for fall including Adventure Race, Archery, and youth football.

Staff Report

The Department hired a new Special Populations Coordinator, Mackenzie Greenly, who began in July. Additionally, Brian informed the Commission of several role changes within the Department. Effective September 3: Dan Moravec will become the Community Center Manager, Guil Johnson will become the Athletic Director, and

Nolan Carter will serve as the Trails and Open Space Coordinator. The transition of these positions will happen gradually as each employee is able to cross-train to learn their new position.

2023 – The Year of the Trail

Brian informed the Commission that North Carolina has declared 2023 as the Year of the Trail. This will result in increased publicity and potentially increased funding for trail work.

V. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

Brian provided the Commission with details regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding. Alamance County will receive approximately 30 million in funding to disperse within the county with the goal to provide support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Brian outlined several ways in which the parks department could utilize some of these funds to address the ARPA Funding goals. These funding opportunities include funding for Haw River Trail land and easement acquisitions, supporting the Haw River Trail Towns initiative, funding a position to support the after-school athletics programs, and investment in the Eli Whitney and Pleasant Grove community centers. Brian presented a document outlining the preliminary details of these funding opportunities. Kelly May put forth a motion for the Commission to formally support the conceptual ideas within the funding opportunities proposal. David Woody seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The Department will review and refine the funding opportunities outline and present an updated version to the Commission. The Commission will advocate for these funding opportunities with the Alamance County Board of Commissioners.

B. Recreation and Parks Commission Membership

The Commission discussed applications for the two open membership seats. Three candidate nominations were made: Lisa Wolff, Yolanda Strickland, and Peter Dahl. After a vote, Lisa Wolff and Peter Dahl's recommendations carried with a majority of votes. Brian will submit the recommendations to the County Board for Commissioners for appointment. The Commission discussed that they were fortunate to receive interest from many qualified applicants and would like to keep these names on file for future vacancies.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 2:53 pm upon the motion of David Woody and the second of Bhavna Hilligrass.

Respectfully Submitted, Brian Baker