

ALAMANCE COUNTY  
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2021 MEETING  
ALAMANCE PARKS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES, CEDAROCK PARK  
3916 R. DEAN COLEMAN ROAD, BURLINGTON NC 27215

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, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Mr. Mike Dunning, Ms. Lisa Wolff, Mr. Peter Dahl

**Alamance Parks Staff Present:** Brian Baker, Director; Mackenzie Greenly, Special Populations Coordinator, 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 August 17, 2021 Minutes  
Upon a motion of Peter Dahl and the second of David Woody, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 meeting.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

III. **REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Isley welcomed new members Kelly Ronnow, Mike Dunning, Lisa Wolff, and Peter Dahl.

IV. **REPORT OF STAFF**

Department Report

Director Brian Baker presented the monthly departmental report for August. Fall recreation programs are underway and park attendance is steady. Upcoming events include the Cedarock Fall Festival on October 2 and the Cedarock Family Campout on October 23-24. The Department continues to consult with the Alamance County Health Department and follows current guidelines when conducting programs. The 2020-21 Alamance Parks Annual Report was also presented. Brian commented that he was proud of the Department's continued progress toward their goals even during an unusual year given the interruptions and restrictions caused by the pandemic.

Introduction of Special Populations Coordinator, Mackenzie Greenly

Mackenzie Greenly was introduced as the new Special Populations Coordinator for Alamance County. Mackenzie recently graduated from UNC-Wilmington and is a certified and licensed Recreational Therapist. Mackenzie reported that Special Olympics has pivoted this fall to offer competition at each school vs. bringing athletes together for

a large tournament. She continues to follow and adhere to pandemic guidelines issued by Special Olympics of North Carolina. Additionally, the VIP (Visually Impaired Program) has resumed activities. The group had a picnic lunch at Cedarock Park in early September and will visit the State Fair in October.

Upon the suggestion of Lisa Wolff, it was discussed to consider changing the name of the division from “Special Populations” to “Therapeutic Recreation” to reflect updated terminology in the field. The Department will consider this change.

V. **UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS**

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding**

The commission revisited the discussion of ARPA funding from the August meeting. Brian Baker 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. An updated funding opportunities sheet was presented. Commission members expressed support for each of these initiatives and encouraged Brian to submit them to the Alamance County Board of Commissioners. Additionally, the Commission will advocate for these funding opportunities.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

None

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 7:02 pm upon the motion of Lisa Wolff and the second of Peter Dahl.

Respectfully Submitted, Brian Baker