

ALAMANCE COUNTY
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 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, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Mr. Mike Dunning, Ms. Lisa Wolff, Mr. Peter Dahl

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

I. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. The meeting was called to order and a quorum was established at 12:30pm
- B. Approval of the October 19, 2021 Minutes
Upon a motion of Peter Dahl and the second of Lisa Wolff, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 meeting.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

III. **REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Lee Isley thanked the Commission for reaching out to the Alamance County Commissioners in support of the Department's funding requests for the county's ARPA funds.

IV. **REPORT OF STAFF**

Department Report

Program Superintendent Jason Witherspoon reported on Department activities. Fall programming is underway including Archery and Youth Basketball. The Athletics Collaborative meets monthly and includes the other municipalities within the county that offer youth sports. The collaborative works to ensure consistency between programs and maximizing resources in order to ensure as many children are able to play as possible. Jason reported that planning was underway for the new disc golf course at Cedarrock Park.

V. **UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS**

A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

Chairman Lee Isley reported that Lisa Wolff attended the community meeting on November 10 which provided the public the opportunity to provide input regarding Alamance County's use of ARPA funds. Lisa spoke in favor of

Alamance Parks receiving funds to support the Afterschool Athletics initiative. The Alamance County Board of Commissioners has not yet made any final decisions regarding the allocation of these funds.

B. Consideration of a Dog Park at Cedarock Park

The Commission discussed the option of adding a dog park at Cedarock Park. Kelly Ronnow suggested some ideas for utilizing donated funds at the Equestrian Center. It was discussed that the area of Cedarock Park being considered for the dog park may not be ideal due to shade. Jason remarked that the dog park at the Eli Whitney Community Center was very popular and a local dog competition group uses the space for tournaments. The Commission agreed to continue discussions at the next meeting once more information was gathered regarding the donor's preferences. No action was taken.

C. Update on 2017 PARTF Grant for Haw River Trail Land Acquisition

Grants and Communications Coordinator Anna Bowland provided an update regarding the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant in the amount of \$300,000 for the purchase of land easements on the Haw River Trail in Northern Alamance County. The grant expired in 2021 but the Department has received an extension through October 1, 2022. Nolan Carter, Trails and Open Space Coordinator is working diligently over the next year to secure as many easements as possible before the grant expires.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm upon the motion of Peter Dahl and the second of Mike Dunning.

Respectfully Submitted, Brian Baker