

ALAMANCE COUNTY
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022 MEETING
ALAMANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONER ROOM
124 W. ELM STREET, GRAHAM NC 27253

MINUTES

Members Present (Underlined): Chairman Lee Isley, Vice-Chair Kelly May, Commissioner Bill T. Lashley, 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; Jason Witherspoon, Program Superintendent; Anna Bowland, Grants & Communications Coordinator

I. **COMMUNICATIONS**

- A. The meeting was called to order and a quorum was established at 12:31pm
- B. Approval of the November 16, 2021 Minutes
Upon a motion of Peter Dahl and the second of David Woody, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2021 meeting.

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

III. **REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

Chairman Lee Isley welcomed Bill T. Lashley to the board as the new Alamance County Board of Commissioners representative.

IV. **REPORT OF STAFF**

Department Report

Director Brian Baker reported that park attendance is steady and has stabilized since the marked increase during the onset of the pandemic. Recreation programs are running in a modified format, where necessary. The youth basketball season is underway and has gotten off to a successful start. The Department is hiring for several open positions; therefore, staff numbers are down. COVID outbreaks continue to impact staff; presently several staff members are out due to illness or exposure.

Brian announced that Burlington was selected as the host of the 2023 Women's Disc Golf National Championship. Cedarock Park's new disc golf course will be one of the locations where the tournament is played.

V. **UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS**

Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area Update

Brian Baker provided an update on the progress at Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area. Work is being done on Phase 2 of the park including trail building, and work to maintain the existing emergency access road. Construction of the parking lot for Phase 2 will begin this winter. The request for proposal for the construction of the Observation Tower is being released this week. The goal remains to open Phase 2 of the park in 2022.

Peter Dahl reminded the Commission that the trail building volunteer group meets each Wednesday at 9am at the mountain to continue work. The group is always looking for additional volunteers.

Kelly Ronnow suggested that when the tower construction is complete we include a log book or similar method for visitors to log their completion of the trail.

Potential Dog Park at Cedarrock Park

Brian provided the update that no contact with the donor has been made regarding alternate donation options. No action taken.

County ARPA Fund Allocation

Commissioner Lashey reported that clarification would be given as to how the county could spend the ARPA funds at the January 18 Alamance County Board of Commissioners meeting. No action taken.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

2022 CVB Tourism Development Authority Grant Application

Brian Baker presented an opportunity for the Department to apply for the CVB Tourism Development Authority Grant. The requested amount is \$5,000 and will be used for radio and digital marketing for Alamance Parks trails including Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area and Haw River Trail locations. Upon the motion of Peter Dahl and Second of Bill Lashley the Commission voted unanimously to approve for the Department to proceed with the grant application.

2022 Easton Foundation Archery Grant for outfitting the Eli Whitney and Pleasant Grove Community Centers

Program Superintendent Jason Witherspoon presented the opportunity for the Department to apply for a grant with the Easton Foundation. The requested grant amount is \$10,000 for the purchase of archery equipment and items to outfit the community center locations as permanent archery centers. This grant would support the Department's existing archery program by allowing for the expansion of archery classes and the addition of open range sessions. Overall, the grant would approximately double the number of people the archery program serves. Upon the motion of Bill Lashley and the second of Peter Dahl, the Commission voted unanimously to approve that the Department proceed with the grant application.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission adjourned the meeting at 1:19pm upon the motion of Peter Dahl and the second of Bill Lashley.

Respectfully Submitted, Brian Baker