

ALAMANCE COUNTY
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022 MEETING
ALAMANCE COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU
200 S. MAIN STREET, BURLINGTON, NC 27215

MINUTES

Members Present: Chairman Lee Isley, Commissioner Bill T. Lashley, Mr. Ryan Bowden, Mr. David Woody, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Mr. Mike Dunning, Ms. Lisa Wolff, Mr. Peter Dahl, Dr. Harold Kernodle, Mr. Thomas Purcell

Alamance Parks Staff Present: Brian Baker, Director; Jason Witherspoon, Programs Superintendent; Mackenzie Greenly, Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation Coordinator; Anna Bowland, Grants & Communications Coordinator

I. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. The meeting was called to order and a quorum was established at 12:50pm
- B. Approval of the June 21, 2022 Minutes
Upon a motion of Peter Dahl and the second of Bill Lashley the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2022 meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

None

IV. REPORT OF STAFF

Department Report

Director Brian Baker reported that park and program attendance is steady. Cedarock Park will host the ALCOVETS Balloon Festival on September 9-11 which is the largest event that will be held at the park this fall. Mr. Baker provided an update on the Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area development. The Oak Hill trailhead parking area is complete and trail construction for Phase 2 is almost complete. A vendor has been selected for the construction of the tower and the contract is currently being negotiated. The Department is planning a soft opening for Phase 2 in the spring followed by a grand opening once the tower is complete.

Jason Witherspoon, Program Superintendent, reported that the Department is utilizing funds received from an Easton Archery grant to outfit the Eli Whitney and Pleasant Grove gyms with equipment and upgrades needed to expand the archery program. The fall archery programs are currently full with a waitlist. Outfitting the gyms with permanent equipment will enable the Department to continue to meet the growing need for these classes.

Mackenzie Greenly, Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation Coordinator, reported that Functional Fitness, an overall fitness and wellness program open to participants of all abilities, kicks off the fall program season in September. The program has had strong participation and positive feedback this fall.

Grace Vandevisser, Executive Director of the Alamance County Visitors Bureau reported that a new visitation tracking device enables the bureau to track visitation throughout the county to better serve the community. She continues to make marketing plans for 2023 which has been designated as “the year of the trail” in North Carolina.

V. **UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS**

None

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Cedarock Park Accessible Playground Grant Application**

Brian Baker presented the Department’s proposed project to install an accessible playground and amenities at Cedarock Park. The Department will seek \$450,000 from the PARTF Accessibility for Parks Grant Fund. An additional \$50,000 will be sought from local agency Impact Alamance as match funds.

Upon the motion of Peter Dahl and second of Harold Kernodle, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Department’s applications for both the PARTF Accessibility for Parks and Impact Alamance grant funds.

B. **Eli Whitney Walking Track**

Brian Baker presented the Department’s proposed project to extend the walking track at the Eli Whitney Community Center. The current track is approximately .15 mile and circles the playground area. The proposed extension would increase the track size to .6 of a mile and would make a complete loop around the center. The Department is requesting \$70,000 from Impact Alamance to fund this project.

Upon the motion of Harold Kernodle and second of Peter Dahl, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Department’s applications for the Impact Alamance grant funds for the Eli Whitney Walking Track project.

C. **Recreation and Parks Commission Vacancy**

Chairman Lee Isley reported that Joseph McHugh stepped down from the Commission due to meeting conflicts; therefore, the Commission currently has one vacancy. Commissioner Lashley presented the list of applicants who applied this spring and asked the group to provide any feedback to him so that he could make an appointment.

VII. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:31pm upon the motion of Peter Dahl and second of Dave Woody.

Respectfully Submitted, Brian Baker