

ALAMANCE COUNTY
RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022 MEETING
IMPACT ALAMANCE BOARD ROOM
133 E DAVIS STREET, BURLINGTON, NC 27215

MINUTES

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

Alamance Parks Staff Present:

Jason Witherspoon, Programs Superintendent
Nolan Carter, Trails and Open Space Coordinator
Anna Bowland, Grants & Communications Coordinator

Members of the Public:

Andrew Sam

I. COMMUNICATIONS

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

B. Approval of the October 18, 2022 Minutes

Upon a motion of Peter Dahl and the second of Mike Dunning the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

III. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

Chairman Lee Isley welcomed Craig Yokeley, to the Board and thanked Vice-Chair Peter Dahl for running the October meeting.

IV. REPORT OF STAFF

A. Department Report

Programs Superintendent Jason Witherspoon gave an update on the Department:

- The Department is awaiting communication regarding the hiring of a new Director. The open position was posted for two weeks and has now closed. The next step is for Human Resources to conduct interviews.
- The Department has been unable to hire part-time employees to help with programs due to a lack of applications and interest. The position is frequently re-posted in hopes of attracting the right candidate(s). Part-time employees help expand the Department's capacity to offer more programs.
- Work on the 3rd disc golf is underway and the course is expected to be open by next spring.

- Basketball season has started and participation is in line with the past several years. Alamance Parks continues to work with other local municipalities to create standards across the leagues and ensure that all interested youth are able to play.

B. Haw River Trail Updates

Trails and Open Space Coordinator, Nolan Carter, gave Haw River Trail updates and passed out the fall newsletter. He reported on trail easements and acquisitions over the past several months.

V. UNFINISHED AND OLD BUSINESS

A. Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area – Pioneer Trail

Peter Dahl updated the Board that the Pioneer Trail, which was built by volunteers with the Friends of Alamance Parks Trails, has been completed. The trail is 3.4 miles long and was constructed by 37 volunteers over the course of 19 months. The volunteers have logged over 2,000 hours of work. Alamance Parks is grateful for the hard work and partnership with the friends group.

B. Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area – Observation Tower

The Board asked for an update regarding the construction of the Observation Tower at CCMNA. Nolan Carter reported that the construction contract has been signed. Construction has not yet begun; however, Bar Construction is in the process of sourcing the steel.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2023 Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting Schedule

The Board discussed the meeting schedule for the upcoming 2023 calendar year. The Alamance County Commissioners are considering adopting a new policy that specifies that boards only need to meet once every other month (6 total meetings per year). After discussion the Board was in favor of keeping the current schedule of one scheduled meeting per month which builds in flexibility in the event that a meeting is canceled or members are not present for a quorum. Upon the motion of Lisa Wolff and second of David Woody the Board voted unanimously to send a letter to the Alamance County Board of Commissioners in support of meeting once a month with the option to cancel a monthly meeting if needed.

Commissioner Bill Lashley reported that Alamance County Board of Commissioner and Alamance-Burlington School System appointees to the Parks Commission will be made in December.

The Board agreed to cancel the December 20, 2022 meeting and reconvene in January 2023.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm upon the motion of Peter Dahl and second of Dave Woody.

Respectfully Submitted, Anna Bowland