



Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2023 at 12:30pm

Impact Alamance Board Room • 133 E Davis St, Burlington, NC 27215

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chairman Lee Isley, Mr. Dan Ingle, Mr. David Woody, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Mr. Mike Dunning, Ms. Lisa Wolff, Mr. Peter Dahl, 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

1) PUBLIC MEETING & PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Meeting: Application NC Recreational Trails Program Grant for Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area Phase 3

Nolan Carter presented the Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area Phase 3 project. Phase 3 development includes approximately 5 miles of new trail on the Sizemore land tract which will connect with and complement the 10 miles of existing trail in the park. The Department is seeking \$100,000 which will cover the cost to develop a trailhead & install a vault toilet. The project match will be Friends of Alamance Parks – Trails volunteer trail building hours and budgeted costs such as access gates and the park entrance sign.

The floor was opened for questions. Peter Dahl asked whether the \$100,000 request would be enough. Nolan confirmed that this was the max amount allowed in the grant. Department funds will cover items such as the entrance gates and entrance sign, allowing the grant funds to stretch further. Kelly Ronnow asked to confirm which road the entrance would be located and it was confirmed to be off Mt. Hermon Rock Creek Road. Nolan explained that Phase 3 trailhead and trails would allow direct access to the other side of the park which would otherwise be a long hike from the other trailheads.

The meeting attendees were in favor of the project. With no other questions, the public meeting was adjourned.

2) COMMUNICATIONS

- a) The meeting was called to order and a quorum established at 12:37pm
- b) The November 15, 2022 meeting minutes were approved unanimously upon the motion of Peter Dahl and second of Tommy Purcell.



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3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

- a) Chairman Isley welcomed Dan Ingle to the Board as the Alamance-Burlington School System representative.

4) REPORT OF STAFF

- a) Monthly Department Report: Jason Witherspoon, Program Superintendent gave an update on the Department. Several staff are attending the Park Ranger Institute for continuing education during the month of January. Recent programs offered included Falconry and Trout Fishing at Cedarock Park. Basketball season is in progress and is going well. The Department continues to work with other municipalities in Alamance County to ensure consistency across the leagues.
- b) Alamance Parks Director Update: Peter Dahl asked for an update on the hiring of a new director for the Department. Chairman Isley confirmed that interviews were underway and they hope to make a hiring decision soon.

5) OLD BUSINESS

- a) Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area: An update was given regarding Phase 2 construction of the park. The trails are complete but still need to be signed. The tower construction is set to begin construction in March. An opening date for Phase 2 has not yet been set.
- b) Haw River Trail Land Easements: Chairman Isley gave an update that Commissioner Lashley had been unable to connect with Ms. Jane Isley regarding access land trail access to the river via her property. The Commission will continue to look for opportunities to connect with Ms. Isley.
- c) Alamance Parks Partnership with Alamance-Burlington School System: The Commission discussed the partnership between the Department and ABSS. Parks uses and maintains several of the school's fields. It was questioned whether the Department is paying a fee for this usage. School representative Dan Ingle stated that he would research this and confirm.

The Department's Afterschool Athletics program, which is a partnership with ABSS, was also mentioned. The goal of this program is to increase involvement in athletics amongst children who may not have the access or desire to participate in competitive leagues. The program is still being considered for testing and implementation in the future.



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6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Alamance Parks' Application for the NC Recreational Trails Program Grant: Upon the motion of Peter Dahl and second of David Woody, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the Department's application to the NC RTP Grant program for Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area Phase 3. The application will now be presented to the Alamance County Board of Commissioners for approval.

- b) Eli Whitney Community Center: David Woody asked for an update on when the new walking track would be installed at the center. Nolan confirmed that the funds, a 2022 grant from Impact Alamance, were in hand and he is working with Parks Superintendent Steve Shaw on the project which they hope to begin in the spring. It was also discussed that outdoor pickleball courts would be a great addition to the center. Jason Witherspoon noted that there was space beside the old gym that could potentially be a good space for this. Staff will research the possibility and costs of adding pickleball courts. Lisa Wolff suggested checking in with Burlington Recreation and Parks who have recently installed courts.

- c) Friends of the NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail – Alamance: Peter Dahl gave an update that the group has completed approximately 60% of the trail re-route from Lower Hopedale to Copeland. The re-route will take the trail right along the river.

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:19pm by acclamation.