



Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2023 at 6:00pm

Shallow Ford Natural Area • 1955 Gerringer Mill Rd, Burlington

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Vice-Chair Peter Dahl, Commissioner Bill T. Lashley, Mr. David Woody, Ms. Kelly Ronnow, Mr. Mike Dunning, Ms. Lisa Wolff, Dr. Harold Kernodle, Mr. Thomas Purcell

ALAMANCE PARKS STAFF PRESENT:

Jamie Merchel, Director; Anna Bowland, Grants & Communications Coordinator

PUBLIC PRESENT:

Andrew Sam, Alamance County Task Force Leader – Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail

1) COMMUNICATIONS

- a) The meeting was called to order and a quorum established at 6:02pm
- b) The March 21 meeting minutes were approved unanimously upon the motion of Lisa Wolff and second of Mike Dunning.

2) PUBLIC COMMENT

- a) Andrew Sam, Alamance County Task Force Leader for the Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail gave an update about the group's trail work in the county. The volunteers are working at Shallowford Natural Area off Leath Road in order to create a one-mile connection to Glen Raven property. They are also building trail in Saxapahaw and working with the City of Burlington to build trail on Ruby Lane which will connect to the Mountains-to-Sea Trail. In the last month, the group finished work on Phase 2 at Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area by completing the trail entrance to the Pioneer Trail. The Alamance County Task Force meets monthly on the 3rd Saturday and on "pop-up" work days.

3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

- a) Vice-Chairman Peter Dahl welcomed new Alamance Parks Director, Jamie Merchel. Board members were given an opportunity to introduce themselves.

4) REPORT OF STAFF

- a) Monthly Department Report: Jamie Merchel and Anna Bowland gave Department updates. The Department is busy with spring programs including T-Ball, Softball & Baseball, Archery, and Adaptive and Inclusive Recreation programming. The 2023 Spring Games were held on April 7 at Elon University. Over 300 Athletics and 700 volunteers participated. It was the first time in 4 years that the event has taken place on a large scale, due to pandemic restrictions.



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- b) Eli Whitney Walking Track: Jamie Merchel provided an update on the construction of the new walking track at the Eli Whitney Community Center. Construction will begin in mid-May on the 0.6-mile surfaced track.
- c) Alamance County 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan: Jamie reported that the Alamance County Board of Commissioners approved the first year of expenses listed as part of the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan at their April 17 meeting. This includes 1 million for ball field improvements at AO Elementary, EM Holt Elementary, and B. Everett Jordan Elementary next fiscal year. During the first year, the B. Everett Jordan Elementary site will be the priority for improvements. Funds were also allocated to repair the Carney Post Office at Cedarrock Park.

5) OLD BUSINESS

- a) NC Senate Bill 100 – To Authorize the Haw River State Trail: Lisa Wolff gave an update on NC Senate Bill 100. The NC Senate approved the bill on March 21 and the companion bill passed in the NC House on March 29.
- b) Cane Creek Mountains Area Phase 2: Jamie gave an update that the Department plans to do a soft opening of Phase 2 of the Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area, the Oak Hill Trailhead on May 5. Open to the public will be the parking area, restrooms, and Pioneer Trail. The remaining amenities of Phase 2, including camping and the Observation Tower, will open later in the summer/early fall of this year when the tower construction is complete.
- c) The Regulator Disc Golf Course: Staff provided an update on the Regulator Disc Golf Course being built at Cedarrock Park. Construction is on schedule and estimated to be completed by July 2023. The course will host the US Women's Disc Golf Tournament on September 21-14, 2023. An update was given on the involvement of the Burlington Area Disc Golf Club. The club has contributed approximately 300 hours of work on the course thus far. A disc golf tournament will be held at Cedarrock Park on July 15 with all proceeds going to the Regulator Disc Golf Course construction fund.

6) NEW BUSINESS

None

7) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47pm by acclamation.