



## Recreation and Parks Commission

Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2023 at 12:30pm

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

### **COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

### **ALAMANCE PARKS STAFF PRESENT:**

Jamie Merchel, Director; Nolan Carter, Trails & Open Space Coordinator; Anna Bowland, Grants & Communications Coordinator

### **1) COMMUNICATIONS**

- a) The meeting was called to order and a quorum established at 12:25pm
- b) The June 20, 2023 meeting minutes were approved unanimously upon the motion of Peter Dahl and second of Mike Dunning.

### **2) PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **3) REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

None

### **4) REPORT OF STAFF**

- a) Monthly Department Report: Director Jamie Merchel gave Department updates:
  - Summer programming is underway. The Program staff offered 3 weeks of sports summer camps this summer which were filled to capacity. Upcoming programming events include Youth Football (beginning July 31), Adaptive & Inclusive Recreation Fall Programming, The ALCOVETS Balloon Festival (September 8-10), and the PDGA US Women's Disc Golf Championship (September 21-24).
  - Department updates regarding specific projects were given and are listed in Old Business.

### **5) OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Haw River Trail Updates:
  - Alamance Volunteer Trail Builders Update: Peter Dahl provided updates on the progress of the volunteer trail builders. The trail extension at Shallow Ford Natural Area is complete and includes .7 mile of flat trail along the river. Parks staff are in the process of preparing signage and blazing this section in order to open it to the public.



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- Peter Dahl inquired about the process to ensure the volunteers receive the best non-profit discount when purchasing materials for the trail. It was recommended to utilize the non-profit status with the Mountains-to-Sea trail as the county does not currently receive a bulk discount.
  
- b) The Regulator Disc Golf Course: Work continues on the course and is the top priority of the Department for the next 3-4 weeks. Work fell behind after a major storm during the first of July left significant damage at Cedarock Park and other Alamance Parks locations. Staff spent several days clearing downed trees in the park and along the trails. Peter Dahl offered that FMST volunteers may be able to assist with remaining cleanup and other work needed to open the course.
  
- c) Cane Creek Mountains Natural Area – Phase 2: Staff reported that the tower is still on hold for permitting. The engineer is re-working the tower drawings to align with the recommended permit. The Department will move forward with plans to open the Lookout Trail prior to the tower opening so that the trail can be utilized. Signage and blazes are needed at the Lookout Trail prior to opening and this is the Department's priority once the Regulator Disc Golf Course is complete.
  
- d) Department Budget: Jamie reported that the Department's budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year has been finalized. Facility improvement projects for the upcoming fiscal year include: Replacing the roof on the storage barn at Cedarock Park, installing a well at the restroom at Cedarock Park, and repairing the field lighting at A-O Elementary baseball field. The Department will also begin work on renovation of the B. Everett Jordan Elementary school ball field – the first of 3 total ball field renovations planned over the next three years. Parks staff are working with the county's Capital Project Manager, Buddy Whitesell on the B. Everette Jordan ball field renovation.
  
- e) Expiring Commission Seats: Commissioner Lashley advised the board that a new commission member had been recommended to the Board of Commissioners for approval at the August 7 meeting. If approved, the new member will join the Parks Board meeting on August 15.

### 6) NEW BUSINESS

- a) Impact Alamance Walking Tracks Grant Application: Jamie presented the opportunity for the Department to apply for Impact Alamance funding for \$100,000 to install community walking tracks at the B. Everett Jordan Elementary and A.O. Elementary School ball fields. The walking tracks will complement the planned ball field renovations. Upon the motion of Peter Dahl and second of Kelly Ronnow, the board unanimously supported the Department's grant application.



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- b) Outdoor Pickleball Courts at Eli Whitney: Board members David Woody and Peter Dahl inquired about the plan to install outdoor pickleball courts at the Eli Whitney Community Center. Pickleball programming at the center is very popular and the community has asked specifically for this amenity. Jamie confirmed that outdoor courts are on the master plan for the park but there is currently no funding for the courts. Staff will continue to keep outdoor pickleball courts on the facility improvement list for the center and pursue funding opportunities.

### 7) **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm by acclamation.