



MEETING MINUTES

BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING OFFICIAL MINUTES

MARCH 11, 2025
6:00 PM

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met in Regular Session on March 11, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of Building G, located at the Brunswick County Government Center, 20 Referendum Drive, Bolivia, North Carolina.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Laura Botto, Chairman
Mike Sullivan, Vice-Chairman
Teagan Perry-Hall
Dale Rabon
Nora Lynn Finch

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

STAFF PRESENT

Aaron Perkins, Director
Tanya Jackson, Administrative Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

Niel Brooks, Deputy County Manager

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Botto called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. INVOCATION

Board Member Rabon gave the Invocation.

III. ATTENDANCE

All Board members were present. Mr. Perkins introduced new Board Member Nora Lynn Finch and New Deputy County Manager Niel Brooks.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2024, Regular Meeting

Board Member Rabon made the motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of the December 10, 2024 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman Sullivan and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

V. CITIZENS WISHING TO BE HEARD

There were no citizens/organizations present for public comments.

VI. COMMISSION BUSINESS SESSION

Mr. Perkins presented the 2025 Update to the Parks & Recreation (P&R) Strategic Plan, noting that the Comprehensive Plan was developed in coordination with the Planning Department. Moving forward, it is recommended that the next P&R Plan be developed as a standalone document.

Key Highlights from the Presentation:

Mr. Perkins outlined major accomplishments since the adoption of the Comprehensive and Strategic Plans, including:

- Smithville Park Phase 3 Renovation
- Implementation of an agronomic plan for athletic fields, parks, and schools
- Development of Best Management Practices checklists for spring, tournament, storm, and winterization procedures
- Allocation of ARPA funding
- Playground installations at Cedar Grove and Dutchman Creek
- Increased participation in athletic programs
- Ranking of parks for the five-year Capital Improvement Plan

Project Rankings and Proposed Recommendations:

The following projects were ranked based on priority, with associated proposed improvements:

Smithville Park Phase 3 – Currently under construction.

1. **Lockwood Folly Park** – New Master Plan, field house, sidewalks, playground, picnic pavilion, etc.
2. **Northwest Park** – Land acquisition, soccer/baseball fields, dog park, walking trails, etc.
3. **Shalotte Park** – New field house, sidewalks, playground, walking trails, tennis courts, disc golf, athletic field renovations, picnic pavilion, etc.
4. **Leland Park** – New Site Plan, sidewalks, ball field improvements, etc.
5. **Land Acquisition for Proposed Parks** – Identifying property throughout Brunswick County.
6. **Town Creek Park** – Maintenance of existing amenities.
7. **Brunswick Nature Park** – Roads/parking, nature center, disc golf, ropes course, etc.
8. **Cedar Grove Park** – Site Master Plan, baseball/soccer fields, concession/restroom facilities, parking, walking trails, dog park, tennis, fishing, bocce/shuffleboard, etc.
9. **Dutchman Creek Park** – Site Master Plan, walking trails, shade structures, docks/boardwalks, picnic pavilion, parking lot, etc.
10. **Navassa Park** – Walking trails, shade structures, parking lot, etc.
11. **Ocean Isle Beach Park Phase 2** – Pickleball courts, nature trail, picnic areas, maintenance of existing amenities, etc.
12. **Complex Park** – Playground, large gazebo, nature trails, etc.
13. **Waccamaw Park Renovations** – Maintenance of existing amenities.
14. **Brunswick Waterway** – Nature trails, boardwalks, picnic shelters, playground, restrooms, canoe/kayak transit dock, etc.

15. **Camp/Fair Grounds (Hwy 211)** – Multi-purpose facility, fairgrounds, livestock shows, equine events, community meetings, amphitheater, open space, etc.
16. **Greenway Master Plan** – Hiring a consultant to draft the plan.
17. **Aquatics Facilities Feasibility Study – Assessment of the potential impact of aquatics facilities.**

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Aaron Perkins)

1. **Update on Smithville Park Project**

Project is moving forward and on schedule. Completion date is set for June 1 with liquated charges of \$500.00 per day to occur if not.

2. **Update on Cedar Grove Park and Dutchman Creek Park**

Playgrounds are in place. Operation Services completed walkways at Cedar Grove.

3. **Update on ARPA Enabled**

Allocated funds for automatic gates. Waccamaw, Shallotte and Ocean Isle Beach are first three Parks to receive. Cameras with license plate recognition are projected later.

4. **Update Youth Sports**

Basketball ended 3/8/25. Soccer registration for Spring has over 1100 participants. Looking to incorporate lacrosse in 2026.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairman Sullivan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Board Member Rabon and passed unanimously (5 to 0).

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at 6 pm in Conference Room of Building G, located at the Brunswick County Government Center, 20 Referendum Drive, Bolivia, North Carolina.