



MEETING MINUTES

BRUNSWICK COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING OFFICIAL MINUTES

MAY 13, 2025
6:00 PM

The Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met in Regular Session on May 13, 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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Dale Rabon

STAFF PRESENT

Aaron Perkins, Director
Tanya Jackson, Administrative Coordinator

OTHERS PRESENT

Bob Cause and Mike Breen

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. INVOCATION

Member Finch gave the Invocation.

III. ATTENDANCE

Chairman Laura Botto, Vice- Chairman Mike Sullivan and Board Members Teagan Perry-Hall and Nora Lynn Finch were present. Director Aaron Perkins and Administrative Coordinator Tanya Jackson were present. Board Member Dale Rabon was absent.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2025, Regular Meeting

Vice Chairman Sullivan made the motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of the April 8, 2025 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Finch 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

USTA – Bob Cause

Bob Cause and Mike Breen were present to discuss the current condition of the tennis courts at Ocean Isle Beach Park. Mr. Cause, who serves as a tournament director for the USTA, noted that the courts were originally constructed in 2010 but have since significantly deteriorated. He expressed a strong interest in seeing the courts restored to their original quality and stated he is willing to speak with anyone who may be able to assist.

Mr. Cause also shared that USTA offers grants that can support improvements related to amenities, lighting and major construction efforts.

Chairman Botto inquired about any restrictions related to grant eligibility. Mr. Cause explained that colleges, schools and public parks are eligible, provided the courts are not designated for shared use with pickleball. He added that USTA membership is required for eligibility, but membership is free of charge.

Vice Chairman Sullivan noted that damage from Hurricane Florence contributed to the courts' condition and that the County is already evaluating potential solutions.

Director Perkins stated that the Department is aware of the issue and is in the process of developing a broader plan for tennis courts countywide. Currently, four of the eight courts at Ocean Isle Beach Park have been closed due to their condition. The County is considering temporary repairs to the remaining four courts until a full reconstruction of all eight courts can be pursued.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Aaron Perkins)

1. Update on Smithville Park Project

Visited the site today. The anticipated completion date remains May 31, 2025. Once the construction area is turned back over to our Department, we will move forward with sprigging and seeding the designated areas.

2. Update on Navassa Park

The playground is now 100% complete.

3. Update on Dutchman Creek & Cedar Grove Park Shelters

Bids have been received and we anticipate having the Purchase Orders in place for the shelters soon.

4. Update on ARPA Enabled

Gate installations are currently in progress. The gate at Shallotte Park is located within a floodway and cannot be configured as an automatic gate due to requirements that components function for 72 hours underwater. As a result, Shallotte Park will remain with a manual gate. Gates for Waccamaw Park and OIB Park have been approved and are now in the planning phase.

5. Update Youth Athletics / Senior Games

Spring Soccer will conclude on May 31, 2025. Youth Lacrosse is scheduled to begin in 2026; however, equipment costs are high and we're exploring offering lacrosse clinics as well. Senior Games are wrapping up on May 16, 2025.

VIII. COMMENTS ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman Botto shared that the Special Olympics swim team has six athletes set to compete in the State Tournament from May 31 to June 1, 2025. She also inquired whether any funds would remain in the budget at the end of June. Director Perkins responded that if any funds are available, they will be applied to the Department's existing wish list.

Vice Chairman Sullivan noted that the tennis and pickleball courts at Smithville Park have seen high usage over the past several weeks.

Board Member Perry-Hall shared that South Brunswick High School has made the playoffs and the middle school has also been actively using Smithville Park. She inquired about the number of summer camp weeks and Director Perkins confirmed there will be five.

Board Member Finch mentioned that, despite four tennis courts being closed at OIB Park, the remaining four courts continue to see significant use.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Finch moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Sullivan and passed unanimously (4 to 0).

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at 6 pm in Conference Room of Building G, located at the Brunswick County Government Center, 20 Referendum Drive, Bolivia, North Carolina.