

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
June 1, 2026
6:00 pm in the Council Chambers
Minutes

Parks and Recreation Members Present- Phyllis Bridges, Chair; Doug Hayworth (Alt), Alison Greeson (Alt.), Maria Ashburn & Duane Willis

Parks and Recreation Members Absent- Lamar Lee, Vice Chair; Charles Clapp, Jr., & Will Grant

Council Members Representative: Council Member Burgess was present.

Staff Members Present- Katie M. Weiner, Scott Coakley, Jeff Goard, Marcy Newton, & Justin May

Visitors Present- Carol Brooks

Call to Order – Phyllis Bridges called the meeting to order.

Approval of minutes from the March 2, 2026, meeting –Bridges asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2026, meeting.

Ashburn made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2026, meeting. Greeson made a second to the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

General Updates on Parks and Recreation –

Jeff Goard reported that the new park shelters for the basketball court and dog park have been installed. Concrete pads and connecting sidewalks would be next on the schedule to satisfy grant requirements, followed by dog park fencing, water fountains, dog play equipment, and the construction of a volleyball court. He added that the work must be completed by the end of September.

He described a recent fire caused by an outside grill that damaged playground features. He said the damage was quickly repaired by staff. He outlined plans to improve fire safety with more visible “no outside grills” signage and possible fire extinguishers at shelters.

Goard shared usage data from GameTime showing a jump from 8,000 to 28,000 park visitors over comparable six-month periods (a 286% increase), underscoring the impact of the new amenities.

The NC Fusion soccer tournament was held at the athletic park, bringing in 427 teams from six states, using seven venues and 52 fields, and generating over 2,500 hotel room nights, with approximately 2,400 visitors at the soccer complex.

Music in the Park is starting this weekend.

Jamestown Park and Golf Course Pro Shop Updates-

Marcy Newton reported that the golf course has been extremely busy this spring with tournaments, outings, high school events, leagues, and regular play. The course served as the home course for four school teams, it also hosted a high school state championship in May, which boosted pro shop sales due to unexpectedly cold weather.

She explained that the new point-of-sale system installed in November has significantly improved revenue tracking. It captured over 200 additional paid rounds in May that would have been missed under the old system.

Newton also highlighted the success of the new golf carts—now able to complete two full rounds per day without needing to be recharged—she praised her staff for maintaining them.

The Tag Marshal GPS system has improved pace-of-play management and helped golfers see the value of recent price increases.

The upcoming Carolinas Junior Girls Championship will be in July. It will bring top junior female golfers from both Carolinas to showcase the course.

Overview of the Land and Water (LWCF) grant opportunity-

Justin May reported that a major capital project on the golf course has just been completed, replacing a failing 24-inch irrigation line and repairing a large sinkhole on hole 10 while reshaping and leveling the tee box. He added that hole 10 should be in play within two to three weeks once the turf is at tee height. He explained that recent dry, low-humidity weather has forced heavy irrigation usage, dropping pond levels by about eight feet, but recent rainfall and repairs to irrigation power issues now allow him to water at night as intended. To keep the greens healthy and playable, he plans needle-tining this week to soften firm surfaces and improve ball reception. This would be followed by core aeration with heavy sanding on July 6–7, while the course is closed for maintenance.

Public Comment – No one signed up

Other Business- No other business was discussed.

Adjournment – Ashburn made a motion to adjourn. Hayworth made a second to the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

The meeting ended at 6:20 pm.