

**PRC Advisory Board
Members**

Kent Curran (27) – 1
Sharon Correll (25) - 1
Janelle Harris (26)
Kathy Lewis (25) - 2
S. Magic Cypress-McNairy (25)
Arun Nair (27)
Patty Reich (27)
Ash Munro (Chair) (26) - 1
Frank Freeman (Vice-Chair) (26) -2



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, August 20th, 2025 @ 6:30 p.m.
Huntersville Town Center
105 Gilead Road, 3rd Floor

Town Staff
Michael Jaycocks
Tramaine Mills

Town Mayor
Christy Clark

Members Present: Janelle Harris, Kent Curran, Patty Reich, Ash Munro, Sharon Correll, Magic Mc Nairy, Arun Nair, Kathy Lewis

Absent: Frank Freeman

Guest: Randi Tollner – Athletic Manager (Huntersville Cares)

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order by Ash Munro, Chair, at 6:30 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Ash confirmed that a quorum of commissioners was present at the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Kent moved to approve the minutes for the June meeting; Patty seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Employee Updates:

Daniel Avery (Park Operations Technician) – Starting his 3rd year.

Zachary Newton – Newest Park Operations Technician.

Park Operations are now fully staffed.

TREES! We are partnering with Tree Charlotte to plant 173 trees near the ballfields at Bradford Park on Saturday, November 22nd. See below the list of trees being planted and the location.

Confirmation details to follow.

Fire Station No 4 Park – Officially named *First Responders Park*. Construction begins next summer. We are awaiting the grant decision this Friday. The maximum award is \$500,000.00
Park maintenance will be evaluated every five years if funded.

Richard Barry Park Disc Golf Course – Construction is underway and expected completion in October.

Caught Doing Good! Michael shared positive feedback from the community on Summer Camp, Rosedale Nature Park, and North Meck Park.

Normy Awards! We're in the Top 3 again! If we win, it will be our 6th consecutive Normy Award!

V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Janelle – Thanks for participating in the Back-to-School event at the Waymer Center. She also had a great experience working with her special needs clients at HFFA.

Patty – June Staff Appreciation: It was nice to meet staff. We will make this an annual event.

Ash – The committee will begin planning tomorrow for Veterans Day Parade. It will take place on November 8th at 9:30 am. We are currently looking for judges and more attendees. The application process will be available next week.

VI. PROGRAMMING REPORT

Athletics:

- **Miles & Smiles Walking Club** resumes September 3rd.
- **Mini Athletes** (Flag Football, Soccer, Baseball, Football) – resumes in September. *NEW CLASS:* Jazz/Ballet available Monday and Thursday evenings.
- **After school** resumes next week.
- **Senior Softball** kicked off this week with 18 teams (13 players per team).
- **Adult Softball** features 39 teams (15-20 players per team).
- **Open Play and Open Gyms** resume the first week of September.
- **Pickleball Updates:** Friday evenings will open pickleball to ages 18+. Tuesday and Thursday morning will remain ages 50+.
- **Volleyball and Nothing But Net Basketball** start next week.

Recreation & Events:

- **LaLaCaboosa** – Gary Lowder & Smokin’ Hot (Beach Music) – Thursday, August 21st.
- **Latino Night** – Friday, September 12th.
- **Growers Market** – One last Young Entrepreneurs Market Day on August 30th.
- **Little Hands & Feet** continues – now adding a new program called “Little Wiggles”.
- **Xtreme Teen Outing** – September 13th & 14th.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS OR PRESENTATIONS

Randi Tollner – Huntersville Cares Event

Randi Tollner, the Athletic Coordinator, shared details about the upcoming Huntersville Cares Event. It is a community-driven initiative designed to bring the parks to the people.

The Thanksgiving outreach (Turkey Day) spearheaded by the Police Department began as a program for the unhoused and those living in the Huntington Green neighborhood. It later evolved into a holiday gift program for families in need.

For the past three years, the event has partnered with local schools and non-profits to identify families. Each family completes an application listing two wants and two needs for every member.

Last year, the program supported around 70 families (approximately 250 individuals). Community members or organizations can “adopt” families, and Amazon wish lists make it easy to shop for requested items. Applications are received in early November. The event includes gift pickup and fun activities for the kids. To protect the families’ dignity, no press or photography is allowed.

How can the community get more involved?

- Community awareness and participation
- Wrapping paper/Supplies drive
- Family adoptions
- Volunteers
- Sponsors
- Help spread the word

Event Date: TBD (likely December 17-20). Final details will be announced at the PRC meeting in October or November.

Link to the program: <https://huntersville.org/3083/Huntersville-Cares>

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

a.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Review and Discuss Park Naming Policy**

There was a request to review the Town’s Park Naming Policy, as it has not been updated in 22 years. Michael gathered feedback from directors in other municipalities regarding their Park Naming Policies.

Highlights from that feedback:

- Require a petition of 50-100 signatures to name a park after someone.
- The individual must have made significant contributions to the community in various ways.
- If naming after a deceased person, a waiting period (e.g., 5-10 years) should be required.
- Make it clear to the public that naming is not a popularity contest.

In the First Responders Park survey, only 33% of responses came from Huntersville residents.

The rest came from out of state (Texas, New York, California, etc.).

Our current policy discourages naming parks after people, but it does allow it and has been done before. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board did not select “First Responders” as the name, since other names (including former Mayor Jill Swain) were also suggested. To fairly recognize all submissions, they recommended “Huntersville Heroes Park”.

It was difficult to select one individual over another when many have contributed significantly to the town.

Naming a park after a person should also provide historical context. For example, a Huntersville Police Chief killed in the line of duty in 1938 has never been honored.

It's unclear which part of the current policy created the issue, but there is still strong support to recognize those who have served.

Challenges and Considerations:

- How should we handle naming future parks? Should we name the other new park Ramah Church Park to avoid conflict? One good thing is even with the recent controversy; awareness of the park has grown.
- Public input is important, but we must avoid the impression that the most votes win.
- Using Survey Monkey can help reduce the "popularity contest" effect.
- Require written submissions explaining why a park should be named after someone.
- Ensure survey confirm respondents are Huntersville residents to prioritize local input.

Next steps to consider....

1. Add a requirement that an individual be deceased for 5-10 years before a park is named after them.
2. Revise Section #4 to reference alternative ways of honoring someone as outlined in #7.
3. Modify Public Input meetings so attendees indicate where in Huntersville they live, ensuring responses are from town residents.
4. Update Disclaimer #3: change "should" to "shall", and to be submitted to the PRC in writing/electronically. Also, reword the last line to "The PRC shall consider these requests and make its recommendation to the Town Board accordingly."
5. Clarify that the PRC shall formally consider all requests.
6. Require that the names be submitted in writing, with justification. Forms should be available online and at Public Input meetings.

Michael will prepare a draft policy revision for the next PRC meeting. At that time, the PRC will decide on the exact 5-10 year requirement and bring ideas for a memorial at First Responders Park.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 17th at Town Center, 105 Gilead Road at 6:30 p.m.

Trees being planted at Bradford Park:

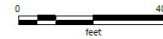


LEGEND
Reforestation (20 x 20 spacing)

- Area 1 (74 Trees)
 - Large Maturing (39)
 - Red Maple - Brandywine (5)
 - River Birch (5)
 - American Hornbeam (5)
 - Deodar Cedar (5)
 - Beech (4)
 - Dawn Redwood (5)
 - Tupelo - Green Gable (5)
 - Elm (5)
 - Medium Maturing (15)
 - Pawpaw (4)
 - Persimmon (4)
 - Ginkgo (4)
 - Sweetbay Magnolia (3)
 - Small Maturing (20)
 - Red Buckeye (5)
 - Redbud - Forest Pansy (5)
 - Crape Myrtle - White Lightning (5)
 - KV Plum (5)
- Area 2 (99 Trees)
 - Large Maturing (54)
 - Red Maple - Brandywine (7)
 - River Birch (6)
 - American Hornbeam (6)
 - Deodar Cedar (7)
 - Beech (6)
 - Dawn Redwood (9)
 - Tupelo - Green Gable (6)
 - Elm (7)
 - Medium Maturing (20)
 - Pawpaw (5)
 - Persimmon (6)
 - Ginkgo (5)
 - Sweetbay Magnolia (4)
 - Small Maturing (25)
 - Red Buckeye (6)
 - Redbud - Forest Pansy (6)
 - Crape Myrtle - White Lightning (7)
 - KV Plum (6)



RC Bradford Park
Planting Date 11/8/25
17005 Davidson-Concord Rd, Huntersville, NC 28078
Planting Plan Tree Selection



0 Landscape Trees
173 Reforestation Trees
173 Total Trees