

**PRC Advisory Board
Members**

Kent Curran (27) - 1
Sharon Correll (29)
Janelle Harris (Chair) (26)
S. Magic Cypress-McNairy (29)
Arun Nair (27)
Robert Nibarger (29)
Patty Reich (27)
Ash Munro (26)
Frank Freeman (Vice-Chair) (26)



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, February 18th, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.
Huntersville Town Hall – Room
14704 N. Old Statesville Road

Town Staff

Michael Jaycocks
Tramaine Mills

Town Commissioner

Heather Smallwood

Members Present: Magic McNairy, Patty Reich, Frank Freeman, Ash Munro, Bob Nibarger, Janelle Harris, Arun Nair, Sharon Correll.

Absent: Kent Curran.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Arun moved to approve the minutes for the January meeting; Ash seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

First Responders Park Update – The driveway is being constructed at the park before Lake Norman Charter opens in August. Public Works has taken on the project so it will help us to reduce costs.

Waymer Park Splash Pad – Mecklenburg County has started their project, which includes additional parking spaces, a pickleball court, and a new playground. We hope this project will be completed before we start construction on the splashpad.

North Mecklenburg Park Greenway – Half of the greenway has been paved. Due to weather, we haven't been able to finish the last half of the asphalt.

Christ the King/Bradford Ballfield 5 – We are still working on the agreement. We want to make sure everything is in order before spending money on the design.

New Years Eve Event – At the Town Board retreat, Commissioner Quarles suggested that we plan a New Year's Eve event like the traditional ball drop, but featuring an "H" drop for Huntersville. This idea presents several challenges. Many local businesses do not remain open until midnight, and most families – especially those with young children – are unlikely to stay outside that late in the cold weather.

We are seeking ideas to help make the event successful. A Noon Year's Eve celebration is not an option since Discovery Place Kids already hosts that event.

Some suggestions discussed include partnering with 760 Craft Works, utilizing the greenway, hosting a blacklight pickleball tournament with reflective balls and paddles, holding the event at the Rec Center, organizing a dance competition, creating a scavenger hunt along the greenway, or hosting the event at Birkdale Village. Lindsay contacted Birkdale Village, however, the latest they are willing to host an event is between 7-8 p.m.

Events that last until midnight would likely target adults rather than families. For a late-night celebration to be successful, the downtown area would need to be better prepared to support it, and at this time it may not be.

Michael encouraged the board to continue thinking about ideas and bring additional suggestions to the next meeting. We will also explore how other cities in North Carolina celebrate New Year's Eve for inspiration.

Employee Updates:

Employee of the Quarter - Cory Oddo (Full-Time) and Nick DeSimone (Part-Time).

Employee of the Year 2025 - Camille Clermont (Full-Time) and Michael Butt (Part-Time).

Athletics:

Nothing But Net – Registration ends this week; league begins in March.

Miles and Smiles 2026 – Walking club starts the first Wednesday in March.

Senior Softball – Registration is closed and team formation is happening now. We will have 20 teams this season, with an overall growth of two teams (approximately 22 additional players).

Adult Softball – Starts this week with 21 teams on Friday night, and 20 on Monday night.

Mahjong Open Play – February 19th at the Arts & Cultural Center (1-3pm).

Mini Athletes – Winter Olympics takes place every Friday this month.

Recreation & Events:

Teen Video Night – March 13th at the Rec Center.

Spring Car & Truck Show – March 14th at Veterans Park.

Donuts with the Duck & Bunny – March 21st at Veterans Park.

FARMERS WANTED! At this year's Growers Market.

Giveyognc is offering Free Community Yoga at the Rec Center every Monday at 10am.

Summer Camp Update:

Jr Adventure Camp (Elementary School) 345 in the lottery, we drew 100 names.

Adventure Camp (Middle School) 107 in the lottery, we will draw 35 names.

V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Janelle – Shared that the Canopy Housing Foundation, which works to support affordable housing and strengthen communities through funding, education, advocacy, and leadership initiatives is seeking youth nominations (10- to 18-year-olds) for their Y.E.S. Award (Youth Excellence In Service). The award was established to encourage youth to address a broad spectrum of needs to build a stronger community. A non-profit, chosen by the recipient, will receive a \$500 donation from the Foundation.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS OR PRESENTATIONS

- a. None.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. **Waymer Park Hockey/Basketball Courts**

Update from the last meeting: We are exploring ways to reduce noise during hockey games. The league has pushed back start times, and Leyland Cypress trees (which grow 2-3 feet a year) will be planted next month to provide an additional buffer. Other options being considered include noise screening, while padding the courts would cost about \$30,000 and durability still needs to be reviewed. Arun suggested an *acoustifence* which is an acoustical barrier that attaches to a chain link fence.

Pine needles have been cleared, most abandoned vehicles removed (one remains), and Mecklenburg County plans to add 20 additional parking spaces.

The department also receives many requests to allow other sports on the courts; however, the goal is to ensure the space remains available for neighborhood use and is not overprogrammed.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. **FY27 Budget Overview**

Barry Park Playground Replacement – The current playground is 18 years old and due for replacement. The estimated cost is \$500,000, which includes making the playground ADA accessible and installing poured-in place rubber surfacing. Synthetic turf is also being considered because it stays cooler. For comparison, the Abernethy Park playground replacement cost \$250,000. We are also considering removing one playground (since there are two) and making it a larger shelter.

NMP Athletic Field Light Upgrades – We are gradually replacing the existing 20+ year old metal halide lights with LED lighting. The estimated cost is \$250,000, and the existing poles can be reused, which will help reduce costs.

Bradford Park Resurfacing Driveway & Parking – The driveway and parking areas, which are 17 years old, need resurfacing. The estimated cost is \$850,000, and we hope Public Works may be able to assist with the project. Recently, 200 parking spaces were added at Bradford Park and 100 at Barry Park.

Benchmarking & Staffing Needs – We regularly study other communities in North Carolina for comparison. Of the 17 communities reviewed, Huntersville is the only Parks Department responsible for maintaining buildings that are not park facilities. Most towns of similar size have a Buildings Department, so we are requesting to hire a Building Manager to help maintain Town Hall, Town Center, Torrence Lytle, the Arts & Culture Center, and other town buildings.

As First Responders Park is expected to open next year, we will also request a Parks Operations Technician to help maintain the additional park space.

We are also requesting an increase in part-time hours to help reduce program waitlists

and to staff the additional gym space that will open at Lake Norman Charter's new school next year.

Michael will share benchmarking and operational information with the PRC to help illustrate the equipment and resources needed to run the department effectively.

The budget will also be shared once it is completed.

All revenue from our programs - except Special Events, which are funded through tourism - covers 100% of their direct expenses. The Town's revenue policy for the Parks Department is to recover 10% of costs, but we've been recovering approximately 30% for years.

Future Meetings - We will conduct the park tour in July. Next month's meeting will be held at the Recreation Center and the April meeting will take place at the Barry Park upper shelter.

Mecklenburg County Playbook – Ash reminded the group about Mecklenburg County's drop-in workshop on March 5 to present their park master plan at the Northern Regional Recreation Center.

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 18th at the Huntersville Recreation Center, 11836 Verhoeff Drive, at 6:30 p.m.