

**PRC Advisory Board
Members**

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



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, March 18th, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.
Huntersville Recreation Center
11836 Verhoeff Dr.

Town Staff

Michael Jaycocks
Tramaine Mills

Town Commissioner

Heather Smallwood

Members Present: Kent Curran, Sharon Correll, Janelle Harris, Frank Freeman, Arun Nair, Patty Reich, Ash Munro.

Absent: Robert Nibarger, Magic Cypress McNairy.

Guest: Commissioner Scott Coronet.

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

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

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Huntersville Athletic Park - Opened in 1997 on county land leased by the town, originally featuring two baseball fields and two soccer fields, with no lights on the soccer fields. At the time, there were no lit soccer fields anywhere in Huntersville. Lighting was limited to baseball outfields, and due to the lack of dedicated youth facilities, three t-ball fields were set up in the outfield corners. Since then, the park has evolved significantly. Soccer field lighting was added in 2010, and in 2018 the Recreation Center was constructed in a more central location on the property. This shift came after coordination with Central Piedmont Community College (CPC), which planned to build a CDL and fire training facility on the property that sits west of the shelter. In exchange for relocating the Rec Center, the town gained access to approximately 200 shared parking spaces, along with additional parking for events (for a total of about 600 parking spaces)—an arrangement that provided substantial value given the high cost of parking construction. The Rec Center was also intentionally designed with a steel structure that allows for future expansion.

Today, the Rec Center sees around 70,000 visits annually, and the park generates approximately 300,000 visitors per year. The site benefits from strong community partnerships, including a joint-use agreement with Lake Norman Charter School, which uses two ballfields in exchange for providing gym space at its campuses and contributing to the installation of

synthetic turf. The Lake Norman Harbor Hippos also host their games at the park during the summer. Additional amenities include the Outdoor Fitness Zone installed about 6–7 years ago with contributions from Keffer Auto Group and Novant Health. Novant Health continues to support the facility as a sponsor, contributing \$30,000 annually in exchange for naming rights and occasional use of the building for staff retreats; these funds are reinvested into maintenance and improvements.

As the park nears its 30-year mark, several upgrades have been completed or are planned. Scoreboards were replaced in recent years with support from Lake Norman Little League and Lake Norman Charter, while aging restroom partitions now need replacement due to rust. A shaded area between fields with poor drainage is slated for synthetic turf installation. Additionally, the Rec Center's main concrete floors are scheduled to be refinished with epoxy, funded through Novant Health's sponsorship agreement.

Waymer Park Hockey Rink - We are addressing noise concerns at the Waymer Park hockey rink. At the last meeting Arun proposed noise-reducing fence system, known as "acoustifence," which would attach to the existing chain-link fencing at a cost of approximately \$14,000–\$20,000. While it will not eliminate all noise due to how sound travels, it is expected to provide some reduction. The plan also includes planting trees near the fence, though they will take time to mature. The project may be funded through capital reserve funds, pending further evaluation of structural considerations such as fence stability in high winds. If successful, similar noise mitigation solutions could be implemented at other locations, including the future pickleball courts at First Responders Park. Michael will bring an agenda item to the next meeting to approve using Capital Reserve Funds to install the acoustifence at Waymer Park.

V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Arun – Asked about the trees that fell on the property after the recent strong winds at Rosedale Nature Park. We cautioned tape the entire area until the tree removal company can remove them and the contract has been prepared. As you can imagine from the weather and winds, they are very busy. We will be a good neighbor and assist with the fence repairs of those affected since the families are willing to provide the materials.

Commissioner Coronet – Visited the Raptor Center and reported that is very impressive. He gave them our information, so they will be reaching out as they are trying to get the word out. Michael will mention it to Weston as a possible place for our summer camp to visit.

Ash – Attended the Meck County playbook open house. His favorite part was the gigantic map where everyone was given 3 pins, allowing visitors to choose their favorite park/facility, the park closest to their home, and the area where they would like for a project to take place. The suggestion of a sportsplex had a lot of pins but in an area near Cornelius, not Huntersville. We are trying to get the county to update the master plan for Bradford Park (because the original plan is 25 years old) where there are 213 acres. Only 50 acres have been developed.

Sharon – The newly planted trees at Bradford is phenomenal will be awesome when they grow in. She took pictures of the lower field at her daughter's flag football game and when she sent them to her family they were so impressed with the trees in the background, something many

of us may take for granted. Trees Charlotte has agreed to do another planting at Richard Barry Park in the fall. They appreciated the fact that we dug all the holes, making it much easier when planting trees.

Arun – Asked if synthetic turf is allowed in front of private homes instead of natural grass, providing less maintenance and a better look in winter months when lawns go dormant. It was suggested that he check with his HOA - Home Owners Association. Arun also reminded everyone about the 2026 Asian & Dragonboat Festival taking place on May 16 at Ramsey Creek Park if anyone is interested. Practices are on Saturdays at 10:30 a.m. Each team must have a minimum of 20 paddlers and 1 drummer, up to 2 additional people.

Janelle – Captured recordings of the noise at Waymer Park from the hockey area. They don't do a lot of scoring, so she did not get a sound clip of the continuous banging. The community of Pottstown is asking if the Mecklenburg County park improvements will be completed by the before the June Fest celebration which is scheduled for the 1st weekend of June. Michael mentioned that if they don't complete the project by June 1st, they will lose federal funding but unfortunately, we don't control their schedule. We are hoping to start construction of the splashpad the week after the June Fest celebration. Due to delays, the splash pad will not be completed until the end of summer.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS OR PRESENTATIONS

- a. None.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Christ the King High School (CTKHS)/Bradford Park Field 5 Agreement** – The proposed agreement is a ten-year term for the use of Bradford Park Ballfield #5. CTKHS will have priority for field use from 3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. during their season, along with eight evening games between February and May. This schedule is not expected to impact existing usage. Typically, the ballfields are closed for approximately 40 days per season due to weather and other factors.

CTKHS will fund the construction of a synthetic turf infield at a cost of \$500,000 over a ten-year period. If project costs exceed \$500,000 CTKHS has agreed to contribute additional funds up to a maximum of \$590,000. The Town retains the option to discontinue the project at any point; however, the intent is to always establish an agreement outlining all terms prior to moving forward as initial funds are required to proceed to the bidding phase.

A Capital Reserve Fund for Bradford Park is available and sufficient to cover engineering and design costs. The Town's long-term goal is to turf all five fields. If design estimates indicate that costs are prohibitive or that completing all five fields simultaneously is more efficient, the project may be deferred without a total loss of design investment. In many cases, completing all fields at once is more efficient due to reduced disruption to field usage and improved construction access. However, this agreement presents an

opportunity for an external organization to invest in field improvements without negatively impacting current operations.

For reference, turf installation at Huntersville Athletic Park cost approximately \$1.2 million for four fields. While future costs are uncertain, market competition among turf providers should help manage pricing.

Reviewing the agreement the following items were discussed by the advisory board:

- 6g. Revise wording from “not metal spikes” to “non-metal spikes”.
- l. (l looks like upper case i) In making such decision user will exercise good judgement. Clarify that they will use their best judgement in playing on the fields during inclement weather.
- m. Reinforce existing ordinances regarding tobacco and alcohol. Alcohol is generally prohibited unless permitted through the appropriate licenses and insurance. Certain agreements (e.g., with the Lake Norman Hippos) allow alcohol sales in designated areas where signage is posted.
- j. Update wording to “properly dispose of all trash” and confirm consistency with the Hippo’s agreement.
- q. CTKHS is responsible for conducting background checks on staff and volunteers; the Town will have access to these records if needed.

The land at Bradford Park is leased from Mecklenburg County and under the terms of the lease, the Town is authorized to make improvements such as turf installation. The County is only required to sign the permit application during the permitting phase.

Ash made a motion to recommend that the Town Board approve the agreement between the Town of Huntersville and Christ the King High School to turf Bradford Park Field #5. Arun seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. None

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned and a tour of the facility and park followed.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 15th at Richard Barry Park – Upper Shelter - 13707 Beatties Ford Road at 6:30 p.m.