



**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)

Town Staff
Michael Jaycocks
Tramaine Mills

Town Commissioner
Heather Smallwood

MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission
Wednesday, April 15th, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.
Richard Barry Park
13707 Beatties Ford Rd, Huntersville, NC. 28078

Members Present: Kent Curran, Patty Reich, Bob Nibarger, Janelle Harris, Magic McNairy, Ash Munro, Arun Nair, Frank Freeman, Sharon Correll.
Town Liaison: Commissioner Smallwood.

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

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

IV. DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Waymer Park Splash Pad – The project is currently out to bid. We are hoping to receive at least three bids during the initial round so that we will not need to rebid the project. Bids are due on May 13. The project is expected to go before the Town Board on June 1, with construction hopefully beginning after July 4.

First Responders Park – Construction of the driveway is underway and is being completed by our Public Works Department. Michael shared the designs for the splash pad, and we are currently working through minor design tweaks.

North Mecklenburg Park Greenway – The project is nearly complete. The concrete and asphalt work has been finished, and crews are currently completing the fine grading along the trail. The remaining work includes installation of the brick pavers near the swings and landscaping. Residents are already using it. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned for mid-June.

Richard Barry Park Overview – Richard Barry Park opened on February 8, 2008, and now sees approximately 400,000 visits annually, making it the Town’s second most-used park after Bradford Park. The park includes six full-size soccer fields, an 18-hole disc golf course, two playgrounds, and two shelters.

When the park was developed, it was intentionally designed to connect with Barnette Elementary School, which opened about a year later. Half of the parking lot is located on CMS property, while the other half is within the park. A shared-use agreement is in place for the parking lot, along with a joint-use agreement for the school gymnasium. The Town funded the

upgrade to a full-size gym and shared the cost of the traffic signal, making this a strong example of partnership and collaboration with other organizations.

The Town also has a joint-use agreement with Charlotte Independence, which pays \$200,000 annually through the turf agreement for the soccer fields. The park hosts soccer, lacrosse, football, and kickball tournaments and can now accommodate winter activities due to the synthetic turf fields, something that was not previously possible. One recent winter tournament brought visitors from 16 states. The synthetic turf also allows tournaments to continue despite poor weather conditions, contributing to significant out-of-town usage of the park.

Approximately two years ago, additional parking and a new restroom building were added. These improvements have helped address parking concerns and reduce long restroom lines during events.

Unfortunately, there is no additional room for expansion at the park because it is located within a critical watershed area. However, the CSD facility across the street is not within the critical watershed. The land is leased from Mecklenburg County, and this was the first park located west of I-77. The playground is original to the park, and staff hope to replace it next year pending budget approval.

Programming:

Jazz Appreciation – This Saturday @ Veterans Park (6pm-9pm)

Earth Day – April 22 @ Rosedale Nature Park (10am-12pm)

Adult Recess – April 24 @ Huntersville Athletic Park (6pm-9pm)

North Meck Community Chorus – April 26 @ Veterans Park (3pm)

Growers' Market Opening Day – May 2 @ Veterans Park (8am—12pm)

Hello Huntersville Music & Arts Festival – May 3 @ Veterans Park (1pm-6pm)

V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Arun – Asked for an update about the weather-related damage to fences surrounding Rosedale Nature Park. Update: We can provide the material but due to liability, we cannot install it. He will have the homeowner reach out to Michael.

Bob – Summer Camp Pickleball registration is almost full. It will take place in June-August. Bob has a contract with Huntersville and Davidson. LKN Pickleball Association won the bid to manage the pickleball courts at Bailey Road Park in Cornelius.

Janelle – Asked if there will still be a ribbon cutting if the splash pad opens after summer. Yes, we will turn it into a “polar plunge” if it’s cold.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS OR PRESENTATIONS

- a. NONE.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Consider approving Capital Reserve Funds for Acoustifence at Waymer Park.**

In an effort in reducing the some of the noise at Waymer Park hockey/basketball court it is being proposed to install a fencing cover called acoustifence using \$20,000 from the

General Capital Reserve Fund. The project would include adding sound-reducing material to the existing 9-foot fence and reinforcing fence posts to withstand strong winds. Staff will confirm the installation timeline.

Janelle shared that the nearby resident appreciates the Town's efforts to address the noise concerns. With Mecklenburg County also adding pickleball courts at Waymer Park, the installation will serve as a good opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of the acoustifence material.

Ash suggested the possibility of sponsorships or branded advertising on the fencing to help offset project costs. Additional funding options, including the Signage Revenue account, were also noted.

Arun made a motion to approve the use of \$20,000 from the General Capital Reserve Fund for the project. Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight (8) votes in favor and one (1) abstention.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Bob Nibarger – Live Video Cameras at Pickleball Courts.**

Bob requested Board feedback on the possibility of installing live video cameras at pickleball courts to help residents check court availability before arriving, particularly during open play. Privacy concerns were discussed, though the cameras would primarily show court usage rather than identifying individuals. Bob noted that other communities have implemented similar systems at sports facilities and will share examples for consideration. Discussion also included whether other sports facilities (like baseball and soccer) may request similar technology in the future. Bob also shared that there are now thirty (30) additional pickleball courts in the area. This helps reduce the demand at our courts.

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 20th at (NMP Shelter #2 and new NMP Greenway) at 6:30 p.m.