

**PRC Advisory Board
Members**

Kent Curran (27) - 1
Sharon Correll (29)
Janelle Harris (Chair) (26)
S. Magic Cypress-McNairy (29) - 2
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, May 20th, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.
North Mecklenburg Park
16131 N. Old Statesville Road
Huntersville, NC. 28078

Town Staff

Michael Jaycocks
Tramaine Mills

Town Commissioner

Heather Smallwood

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

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

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

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hello Huntersville 2026 had a record turnout, with some awesome volunteers, including our very own Patty Reich. This year's event focused more on the arts and featured no rides. Parking at the new Town Hall and Town Center parking deck filled up completely. At one point, between approximately 2:45-3:15 p.m. there was nowhere left to direct people to park. Placer AI projected attendance around 4,000 people. Attendance at the Jazz Festival was also nearly double what it had been in previous years.

Following the event, our police officers raised the question of whether the event may eventually outgrow the space and need to move to Huntersville Athletic Park and the Recreation Center. If attendance reaches 6,000-7,000 people, relocation may need to be considered. Otherwise, additional road closures would be likely necessary, which is something we hope to avoid.

Patty also shared about a volunteer who worked at Hello Huntersville with her. He had previously attended our Adult Recess event and was so impressed, especially that everything was free, that he wanted to find a way to give back.

Waymer Park Splash Pad Bid – Bid came within budget. Staff are currently conducting due diligence to ensure all bidders are qualified before a final selection is announced. The trees at the basketball and hockey areas have been installed, and the acoustifence has been ordered.

North Mecklenburg Park Greenway is nearly complete. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is planned for mid-June.

First Responders Park – Is close to the permitting stage and is expected to go out for bid in the fall. The driveway between the park and the school is partially paved, and the six tennis courts are now complete. The tennis courts will open in the fall, alongside the opening of the school.

Budget Items:

Facility Manager position is still in the budget.

North Mecklenburg Park plans include renovating the shelter and upgrading lighting to LED at the basketball courts, soccer field, and two smaller ballfields.

History about North Mecklenburg Park.

Originally, the park ended at the first two baseball fields and parking lot. In 2001, the park was expanded to include the restroom and concession area. Tennis courts were added in 2010, and the splash pad was added in 2024.

The park spans 99 acres on land leased from Mecklenburg County and welcomes approximately 300,000 visitors each year.

At the new Greenway connection, the Hamptons HOA had originally granted an easement to connect to the property. However, after changes within the HOA leadership, that decision was reversed, leaving the connection incomplete. There was a similar situation at Bellamoor at the Park Senior Community where there is a partial connection. We did what we could to make it safe for residents to access the park.

The mountain bike trail has now been completed, with signage and striping being finalized.

This park provides a wide variety of activities such as soccer fields, mountain bike trails, tennis courts, softball fields, a splashpad, basketball courts, a paved walking trail, two shelters and two playgrounds. The goal is to keep as much buffer as possible considering the neighbors and the mountain bike trail.

E-bike rules – we are working with the County to come up with the rules for e-bikes since most of the greenways belong to them.

There was an agreement to turf the soccer fields at one time, but we left them as grass. This park is completely built out.

V. **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS**

Arun – Asked how to be a vendor at our events and the price. We will give him our Events Manager contact information.

Ash - Encouraged everyone to attend the Budget Buzz meeting tomorrow night, show support for the Parks & Recreation budget items and give feedback.

Sharon – Experienced the story forge feature at Hello Huntersville and was impressed.

However, there were a lot of open seats. She believes that many young pre-teens would've been interested in it if they had advertised it more. The ice sculpture was also good.

She also mentioned remembering a drainage issue in the shaded area from splashpad that made the hill slippery and was sending water into the drain by field 1.

Janelle – HCDA Spring Festival (June Fest) will take place on the 4th July. This year they will be their 50th Anniversary Celebration. She inquired about getting fireworks or a drone show, but Michael advised that they need approval from the county and fire marshal – there is a process

to get that done. She mentioned that they would like to incorporate more than has been previously done. Entertainment like that takes a lot of time, preparation and planning so 6-8 weeks is tight when you need police to close roads, especially for a parade.

Other - Michael announced that Huntersville was ranked 36th best place to live out of the whole country by U.S. News and World Report. The only three places in North Carolina that were mentioned were Huntersville, Apex and Cary.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS OR PRESENTATIONS

- a. Gwen Gomez – Eagle Scout. She is a Junior at Hopewell High School and participated in after school and summer camps with Huntersville Parks and Recreation. Her troop meets in Davidson. She has three proposed ideas: Pollinator Garden at Rosedale Nature Park (beneficial to the environment and educational for kids – native species) or North Meck Park. Another idea is an outdoor classroom at Richard Barry or Holbrook Park. The third option would be a bridge at Bradford Park. She is leaning towards the Pollinator Garden at Rosedale Nature Park. There will be native plants with signage. Ash asked if there is a plan to maintain it? Park staff would be required to maintain it. Patty asked about her fundraising. She plans to set up a GoFundMe – sending it to family and friends for support. She would reach out to garden supply stores for the product. Timeline – she has until February of next year but hope to get it done before September. The project should take about 5 days to complete, and she will enlist the help of family members, her troop and JROTC peers. Michael will work with her further to determine a suitable area in the park. Ash made a motion that Gwen will work on the service project that will fit best with her budget and Town’s needs – Frank seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **The Vine Park** – Will be located in Downtown Huntersville in the old Cashion’s lot. We’ve been trying to decide what to do with the property. Being a focal point of the downtown area, it needed something nice and attractive. There will be seating walls, jewel boxes (storefronts), a water feature with artwork, light arches, string lighting, tables with umbrellas and a small stage for musicians. 760 Craft Beer will convert a portion of the east side of their building that will be catered to adults over 21 – no kids allowed. This area will be the social district. The money is in budget, if approved next month, to start the project. It will change the look of downtown and there will also be a connection to the trailhead.
Sharon recommends trash bins big enough to hold pizza boxes because people will bring pizza boxes to that area. There will be restrooms and synthetic turf ground covers. Ash asked about the turn lane. The turn lane is no longer in the plans. Arun asked about

parking. Parking will be the existing parking deck and future parking deck being built at the new Town Hall parking lot. Michael also announced that we plan to expand the light show in the BMP area that is next to the trail head. We want to keep growing the light show every year. The Vine Park construction should start in 10-12 months, and it should take about 8-10 months to complete. An official name will be decided at some point.

The next meeting will be on Monday, June 15th at The Northern Regional Recreation Center - 18121 Old Statesville Road, Cornelius, NC. at 6:30 p.m.