

Fayetteville-Cumberland Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Minutes

March 4, 2025 – 5:30 PM

Present Harold Smelcer, Vickie Mullins, Stacy Bolton, David Breece, Helen Brockett, Zarah Coll, Lynnne Guzman, Thomas Hatch, Emily Schaefer, Crystal Williams, Sierra Robbins, Chad Barbour, Adam Lindsay, Council Member Greene

Item 1 Welcome, Open Conversation till Quorum.

Item 2 Quorum 5:30 PM

Mr. Smelcer shared that there is an advertisement on the radio about registering for youth sports. He further shared how wonderful he thought the advertisement was in encouraging parents to enroll their players.

Item 3 Invocation

Item 4 Call Meeting

Item 5 Review & Approval of March 4 Agenda
Motion: Ms. Guzman
Second: Ms. Williams
Unanimous

Item 6 Review & Approval of February 4 Minutes
Motion: Ms. Williams
Second: Mr. Hatch
Unanimous

Item 7 Discussion of Meeting Dates for Elections

Mr. Hatch made a motion to move the October and November meetings to the following week due to scheduled elections. Mr. Hatch removed his motion following discussion about Veterans Day holiday and potential locations.

Mr. Smelcer mentioned moving the October meeting to October 14th at the current location, and November 11. Additional discussion

Mr. Hatch made a motion to move the October meeting to the 14th. Discussion followed about missing members on the 4th due to voting and the potential of simply cancelling the November meeting.
Second: Ms. Gordon
Ms. Brockett abstained.
Unanimous.

The November meeting currently will remain as scheduled for November 4.

Item 8 Renaming Request: Woodrow Park

Council Member Greene shared that the Friends of Haymount is a group that was founded out of a special permit use meeting, due to concerns of area citizens with a shared interest. The group is very civic minded and have completed a number of projects in the area, such as book drives. They have approached the Council Member about renaming the park as they would like to participate in keeping the park spruced up and maintained. The group lives in the Haymount area and this is the closest park top all of them. The park is geared more toward toddlers and has a lot of passive recreation space to be kept clean. Ms. Guzman clarified if the desire is simply for “Haymount” to be added to the name. Ms. Greene shared that that is the desire. Mr. Barbour inquired if the addition of the name is a requirement for their participation in the park. Council Member Greene indicated it is not.

Ms. Guzman inquired if the cost is the only obstacle. Ms. Legette explained that this is not a park that currently has a large sign like some others, valued at \$15,000. Council Member Greene confirmed that this is a smaller sign that the City Sign Shop can refinish.

Hatch second
unanimous

Item 9 Director’s Report

Ribbon cutting last week for Orange Street School, completed with funding from state and county. The 26 Project (STEM program) is in the facility, a recording studio, and Greater Life youth program.

The tennis center building is being worked on and the new contractor has an opportunity complete the remainder of the work there.

Mable C Smith’s contractor is working hard on that project and staff anticipates it finished in a few months.

Mendoza Park renovations are underway and the playground is nearly installed. Restrooms are being refurbished and upgraded. The buildings will be painted.

Veterans Park Phase 2 is undergoing adjustments with the architect for new elevations so the project can go back out for bid. After bids are received staff will be able to determine what the budget can afford so that work can begin to add value to that space.

Cape Fear River Park architect is working to refine the bid package for that.

Cedar Creek Regional Park discussions are ongoing with the County Manager. A meeting is anticipated in the next two weeks and staff is hopeful to receive the go ahead for negotiations to try to determine where the park will be located.

The Makers Space project is moving forward with quotes coming in on costs to get the facility up and running. Staff is researching options for funding and will return to council.

The sports complex architect is refining plans there for the restrooms to put the project out for bid in the next 60-90 days. Mr. Gibson shared that there are some opportunities to maneuver things differently at the sports complex and he’s looking forward to those conversations. Mr. Smelcer asked if there are now small steps being taken and not big ones. Mr. Gibson shared there are still steps and once movement happens he anticipates it being quick.

Mr. Gibson shared that the department received a \$20,000 grant from sports betting funds. These funds will be used for football helmets and he's excited to see the new equipment

Ms. Legette shared that one of the lifeguards, also a Pine Forest High School student, was recognized for performing at Carnegie Hall.

Mr. Smelcer inquired if Mr. Gibson could speak with the county manager about the aquatics center. Mr. Gibson shared that he would.

Item 10 Old Business

Ms. Mullins inquired about the Cedar Creek park and some land available on Culbreth Road (2995 Culbreth Road), a total of 114 acres and the owner is willing to divide it. The ask is \$7,500 per acre. She offered to share the contact information with Mr. Gibson. Ms. Legette requested Ms. Mullins email that information to staff.

Item 11 New Business

Ms. Brockett shared that she would like to invite eh commission to Grays Creek for Community Day this Saturday, March 8 from 11AM to 2PM. She shared there will be community information and vendors, and the event is at Grays Creek High School.

Item 12 Adjournment

Motion: Ms. Brockett
Second: Ms. Mullins
Unanimous
Adjourned at 5:55PM