



**Parks and Greenways Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 12, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.**

Chair Gary Anderson called to order the Regular Parks and Greenways Board Meeting at 9:30 a.m. on November 12, 2024.

The following attended in person at Town Hall, 441 White Pine Drive, Laurel Park NC 28739:

- Chair Gary Anderson
- Vice Chair Judy Lyons
- Secretary Terry Pierce
- John McGregor
- Denise Layfield
- Joseph Robustelli
- Todd Plessel
- Commissioner George Banta - Council Representative
- Parks Operation Coordinator Bryan Hensley
- Bobbie Trotter – Chief of Police

Guests:

- Pete Herberger - Resident
- Richard Yount - Resident

The following were absent:

- Town Manager Cara Reeves

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Anderson asked if there were any public comments. Pete Herberger and Richard Yount shared their desire/qualifications in serving on the Parks and Greenways Board. Chair Anderson asked them to apply.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda was unanimously approved on motion by Joe Robustelli and second by Judy Lyons. Chair Anderson asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

September 10, 2024, minutes were unanimously approved on motion by Vice Chair Lyons and seconded by John McGregor. Vice Chair Lyons asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

September 17, 2024, Site Meeting minutes were unanimously approved on motion by Joe Robustelli and second by Secretary Pierce. Vice Chair Lyons asked for discussion; there was none. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### **BUDGET REPORT**

No budget report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Secretary Pierce shared results of the 2024 Blue Bird Nesting Program. See attached. Mr. Yount asked to be added to the list of volunteers for the 2025 season.
- The Jump Off Rock staircase needs a total rebuild. Todd Plessel will varnish the lumber prior to construction. Volunteers are needed to help with the rebuild.
- The trails at JOR are in decent shape except for a fallen tree that needs to be removed from the Yellow Trail.
- Chair Anderson will schedule the Volunteer Appreciation celebration to take place after the holidays.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- There are two openings for P & G Board Members. Four applications have been received. Mr. Herberger and Mr. Yount were asked to submit applications. It was decided that the Board schedule a Closed Session to discuss the applicants. Decision tabled until December 4, 2024.
- Vice Chair Lyons made a motion to approve Denise Layfield to serve on the Laurel Park Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee. Seconded by Secretary Pierce. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Vice Chair Lyons motioned, and Denise Layfield seconded to accept the changes as written for Signage. Motion carried unanimously.
- Trails & Parks Assessment Post-Helene:
  - Laurel Green Park is in good condition with sand and gravel path repairs needed.

- Rhododendron Lake Park is a disaster and unsafe. B Commissioner Banta stressed a hands-off approach until FEMA and the Town finish inspections and determine the next steps.
- Jump Off Rock in decent shape except for the staircase rebuild.
- A fallen tree needs to be removed from the Yellow Trail.
- Crystal Springs is in poor shape and is on the FEMA list for recommendations and remediation.
- All hands-off in Glen Rock Springs due to dangerous terrain due to multiple fallen trees.
- The stream restoration flood zones at Laurel Green worked as designed. The stream banks suffered considerable damage.

Commissioner Banta shared that at this time the Council is exploring funding options in conjunction with FEMA. Priorities are changing and currently it is too soon to act on any of the above repairs. Assessments are ongoing. The goal is to prevent additional damage now and in the future.

The Parks and Greenways Board should focus only on the parks that are open to the public: Laurel Green, Canal Park and Jump Off Rock. The trails are also accessible.

**PARK TECHNICIAN’S REPORT**

Mr. Hensley said he is continuing to clear debris in Town Parks. Henderson County will be picking up storm debris in all of Laurel Park.

**INVASIVES SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. McGregor asked if this committee could also address the overabundance of deer and groundhogs. Educating residents is one goal. The committee is developing a tree protection priority list. Volunteers worked to remove the invasive Asian Spiderwort in the Laurel Green stream. John suggests continuing to monitor the stream.

**BEE COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report.

**CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

No report.

**BOARD AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**


Commissioner Banta asked everyone to be patient as the Town works to coordinate assessments and repairs with FEMA.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m. on motion by Joe Robustelli and seconded by John McGregor. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

ATTEST:

  
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Terry Pierce  
Secretary

  
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Gary Anderson, Chair  
  
12/10/24  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date