



Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes May 20th, 2026

Call to order:

The recent Park Advisory Board Meeting was held on May 20th, 2026, at the Belle Johnston Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Christine Turner.

Attendees

Matthew Jakubowski (Staff)	Randy Brantley	Amy Smith
Shi Cain (Staff)	Lorraine Haynes	Stacy Shatterly
Christine Turner (Chair)	Kris McVey (Vice Chair)	Isaac Black

Non-Attendees

Yvette Isaacs
James Dinkler

Public Comment: None

New Business

Approval of minutes:

- i. Christine Turner made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 18th, 2026, meeting. Motion approved and seconded by Randy Brantley; all favor by all.

Director Updates:

- i. Pickleball Courts: The pickleball courts are nearing completion. Matthew informed the Park Board that the fencing will be installed this week, with approximately three weeks remaining until the project is complete. Once the fencing and court painting are finished, the courts are expected to open during the first or middle week of June. Rental fees will remain affordable and comparable to Mecklenburg County rates. Participants will be able to reserve courts through RecDesk. The courts will also be free to use when they are not reserved. Matthew asked the Park Board to vote on the court's colors. Christine noted that having different colored courts would make it easier for participants to identify which court they are using or reserving. The different colors will also provide better contrast for the pickleballs. The Park Board voted on the color options, with the final vote between a teal or blue background. The Board voted

- in favor of the blue background. The courts are expected to be completed within the next three weeks.
- ii. Budget Capital Plan 26-27: The 2026–2027 capital plans have not yet been officially approved but have received preliminary approval. The budget was presented to Town Council on May 13 or 14. There are six capital items included in the plan, including the following of the six capital items: A new vehicle. A shade structure over the fitness court. Gate for the entrance of the Belle Johnston Community. Replacement of the fence at Jack Hughes Park, with plans to continue using wood fencing. New netting along Field 4 to help prevent foul balls from entering the soccer field area. The two Jack Hughes Park projects are expected to begin at the beginning of July so they can be completed in time for the fall season. The new Town Council develops strategic priorities each year as part of the Town’s Master Plan. The expansion of Jack Hughes Park remains an ongoing project. Matthew would also like to discuss the potential expansion of the Belle Johnston Community Center, as one of the Council members has expressed interest in exploring an expansion. One of the approved capital budget items is funding for a feasibility study. The Town plans to hire a firm to evaluate the site and develop potential design concepts for expansion. There are several considerations that will need to be addressed, including electrical infrastructure and the slopes surrounding the gym. The feasibility study has been approved, and Town Council would like to further explore the possibilities for expanding the Belle Johnston Community Center.
 - iii. Rules and Procedures for Park Board: Approximately two months ago, Town Council requested a review of the verbiage and procedures governing the Park Board. Matthew made several updates to the Park Board’s Rules and Procedures to address redundant meetings and clarify the length of service for Board members, including the number of years a member may serve per term. Overall, going over the procedures and expectations for Park Board Meetings. Matthew also communicates regularly with Ryan regarding ideas and recommendations brought forward by the Park Board and helps relay those suggestions to Town Council.
 - iv. Special Events Coordinator: Jordan moved on from the Special Events Coordinator position at the end of March. The Town has hired Taylor Gardner, a recent college graduate from Maine, as the new Special Events Coordinator. Taylor will begin on June 3 and will be responsible for coordinating and overseeing Town events. The department is excited to welcome her to the team.
 - v. Rock’n & Reel’n: The Rock’n & Reel’n summer series will begin in approximately two to three weeks. This summer’s schedule includes three movies and four

concerts. The concert lineup includes Face to Face – Billy Joel and Elton John Piano Bar. 20 Ride – Zac Brown Tribute Band. The Charlotte Symphony. The Beatles Tribute Band. The movie series typically includes children’s movies along with at least one older movie. This year’s older movie selection is *Angels in the Outfield*. This will conclude with the upcoming summer series.

- vi. Music On Main: Music on Main is going well overall. The first week was a great success. The second week was put on pause due to the car accident near Town Hall. Attendance during the third week was low, and storms also moved into the area. The fourth week was very successful, with a large turnout. Overall, the first and fourth weeks were particularly successful. The program also received great participation from downtown businesses that provided gift cards for attendees. Participating businesses included Brass Birds, Margo’s, Carolina Scoops, and The Garrison. The program continues to emphasize supporting local downtown merchants.
- vii. Sheltra Race: The Sheltra Race will be held on October 3rd this year. Organizers were looking for a new date, and October 3 was the available date. As a result, the race has been moved later in the year. Matthew will be working at the race.
- viii. Splash Pad-Drought: The Town received confirmation from Charlotte Water that the splash pad qualifies as a community-use amenity. This information was provided by Charlotte Water and forwarded to Ryan and Town Council. Based on Charlotte Water’s guidance, the splash pad can remain open because it is considered a community-use amenity. However, if drought conditions progress to Stage 3, the splash pad will most likely be closed. The splash pad uses a recycled-water system. In contrast, the fountain at Town Hall has been shut down because it is not considered a community-use amenity. If questions arise regarding the splash pad during drought conditions, staff can explain that Charlotte Water has confirmed that the splash pad is a community-use amenity.
- ix. Arts in the Park: Arts in the Park was held this past weekend and was a great success. The event had strong attendance throughout the day, with approximately 60 vendors and five musical acts. The weather was excellent, and attendees stayed throughout the event to eat, shop, and enjoy the activities. Several food vendors sold out of desserts and other food items. Overall, the event was very well received.
- x. Special Olympics Bingo: Shi partnered with Special Olympics for a bingo night that included 18 participants. Matthew has strongly encouraged Shi to continue partnering with Special Olympics to provide fun and inclusive programming. Shi reported that the event was a lot of fun.

- xi. Senior Field Trips: The Parks and Recreation Department recently hosted several senior field trips. Matthew and Shi traveled with participants to Greensboro to visit the Civil Rights Museum, providing an opportunity to learn more about the history of North Carolina. The group also visited a distillery in Statesville to learn about how bourbon is processed and produced. Another trip included a visit to an Amish store in Hamptonville, North Carolina. The senior field trips continue to be extremely popular and regularly fill up. They have become a valuable and well-received part of the department's programming.
- xii. Kids Field Trips-Spring Break Camp: Shi has introduced new programming for children who are out of school on teacher workdays. The program provides field trip opportunities for children during school breaks. A spring break camp was held in April, including a trip to Anne Springs Close Greenway. Additional programs of this type are planned. Christine asked whether the spring break camp filled quickly. Shi confirmed that both the spring break and teacher workday programs are very popular and fill up quickly.
- xiii. Hut-Town Council: Following the accident at Town Hall, Town Council has been using Hut for its meetings until Town Hall is once again able to hold meetings.
- xiv. Town Council did not approve the Pineville Players proposal. The Council is instead investing in Pineville Neighbors and Hope Soccer.
- xv. Athletic Review:
 - Youth Volleyball: 113 participants across 12 teams
 - Youth Soccer: 354 participants across 36 teams
 - Adult Softball League Fall: Registration and planning are currently underway for the slow-pitch and co-ed leagues. Shi will assist Erin with this program.

PPRAB Vacancies and Appointments:

- i. The PPRAB currently has 9 of 9 positions filled! The board is currently in full membership.

PPRAB Member Reports

- i. Community Engagements: Randy suggested installing a small bulletin board near the dog park to promote Parks and Recreation programs, athletic activities, and upcoming events. Amy suggested using an A-frame sign with a QR code that would direct visitors to the Parks and Recreation website for more information.
- ii. Resident concerns/suggestions: Randy suggested placing "No Parking" signs on the island/entrance of Park Lake Town Homes during events, as vehicles often park along the side of the road and block access to the entrance.

Park and Recreation Department: Upcoming Events/Programs

- i. Movies Series: June-August
- ii. Rock'n & Reel'n
- iii. Summer Camp June 15th-August 14th
- iv. Symphony: June 25th

Open Discussion/Suggestions/Future Initiatives

Schedule of Upcoming PPRAB Meetings: 2026 Meetings: February 18th, May 20th, August 19th, November 18th

Adjourn – Christine Turner made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Kris McVey seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm