

Town of Stoneville - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB)

Meeting Minutes

Date: October 21, 2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Location: Vera Holland Community Building – 203 E Main Street, Stoneville, NC

Members Present – Chairman Curt Bennett, Pastor Kenneth Moore, Jerry Smith, Kasie Pruitt, Bob Bailey, Ed Brown, Charles Rakestraw. Members Absent – David Price, Chris Avis

Staff Present – Town Administrator Michael Sands and Town Clerk Deleia Hutcherson

Call to Order and Welcome: Chairman Curt Bennett called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the October 21, 2025 meeting agenda was made by Charles Rakestraw. Seconded by Kasie Pruitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the September 30, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Jerry Smith. Seconded by Charles Rakestraw. Motion carried unanimously.

Update on Bylaws: Chairman Bennett informed the board that the Council approved an amendment to the bylaws at their October 7, 2025, meeting. This amendment increases the number of official advisory board members from six (6) to eight (8).

Election of Vice Chairman: Chairman Bennett called for a motion to elect Mr. Ed Brown as Vice Chairman. A motion to elect Mr. Brown as Vice Chairman was made by Jerry Smith. Seconded by Charles Rakestraw. Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed regional recreation planning and collaboration. Members noted that while the Madison-Mayodan Recreation Commission operates with a \$500,000 annual budget, Stoneville's budget remains approximately \$40,000. The group agreed that the limited funding restricts program growth and facility improvement and increased funding needs to be considered during the next budget cycle. Jerry Smith recommended engaging Ms. Dale Smith, a Recreation Consultant and former Director of the City of Rocky Mount, NC Parks and Recreation Department, to advise the board on strategic planning, community engagement, and grant opportunities. The board expressed interest in inviting Ms. Smith to present her recommendations to the committee, with Jerry volunteering to draft an introductory email and share it for review.

Further discussion centered on collaborative opportunities between Stoneville, Madison, and Mayodan to maximize recreational access. Several members noted the need for a dedicated, full-time Parks and Recreation Director, emphasizing that previous part-time positions were ineffective. The consensus was that a full-time, well-qualified and passionate leader was essential to advance recreation initiatives, develop youth programming, and

coordinate regional partnerships. The board agreed to review and update the existing job description and research competitive salary benchmarks within the county to prepare a formal funding recommendation to the Town Council.

Facility access and partnerships were also discussed extensively. Kasie Pruitt explained that the elementary school gym could be made available for town use under a formal facility use agreement. She highlighted past issues with misuse of the facility but confirmed willingness to collaborate once a new Parks and Recreation Director is appointed. Pastor Moore also offered the Sharon Outreach Center gym and fields as potential sites for joint programming. Board members acknowledged that available facilities exist throughout the community, but organization and management have been lacking.

Discussion shifted toward space for a Parks and Recreation office. Several members noted multiple empty buildings downtown that could be repurposed as a dedicated office or youth center. The county-owned building currently used for meetings was also proposed as a possible headquarters. The Town Administrator, Michael Sands, agreed to approach County Manager, Lance Metzler to explore options for office space.

During New Business, the board outlined short- and long-term action items:

1. Facility and Office Planning: Identify a permanent Parks and Recreation office space.
2. Consultant Engagement: Contact Dale Smith to inquire about consulting fees and availability.
3. Personnel Planning: Review the existing Parks and Recreation job description, circulate it for board input, and determine salary recommendations.
4. Funding Strategy: Develop a proposal to increase the department's budget allocation from the current \$40,000 to approximately \$250,000 and advocate for inclusion in the next fiscal year budget cycle.
5. Grant Preparation: Begin outlining potential grant opportunities, including the NC PARTF (Parks and Recreation Trust Fund) grant, with support from UNC School of Government resources and local grant-writing assistance.

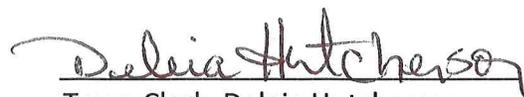
In closing, the board agreed that the revitalization of the town's recreation program requires coordinated planning, full-time staffing, dedicated funding, and strong advocacy before the Town Council.

Chairman Bennett thanked all participants for their input and commitment to advancing Stoneville's recreational future and adjourned the meeting.

Adjourned at 11:26 a.m.



Chairman, Curt Bennett



Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

