**AGENDA**
**Town of Stoneville Parks and Recreation**
**Advisory Board Meeting**
**January 20, 2026 - 10:00 AM**
**Vera Holland Community Center - 203 E. Main St.**

**CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Curt Bennett**

**WELCOME**

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 20, 2026 AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Meeting - October 21, 2025
- Meeting – November 18, 2025

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Update on Parks and Recreation Office Space
- Spring Recreational Programs

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Consultant
- Pocket Park – 110 N. Henry Street
- 2026-2027 Parks and Recreation Budget

**COMMENTS**

- Public
- Members
- Chair
- Administrator

**NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**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.**

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Chairman, Curt Bennett Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

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

**Meeting Minutes**
**Date: November 18, 2025**
**Time: 10:00 AM**
**Location: Vera Holland Community Building – 203 E Main Street, Stoneville, NC**

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

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 quorum was not present and no action taken.

**Approval of Minutes:** A quorum was not present and no action taken.

**Introduction and Grant Discussion**
The meeting opened with introductions and remarks regarding grant opportunities for youth programs in the Stoneville area. Ms. Popi Makris, Founder of After School Brilliance, STEM Kids NC Inc. shared her experience with 21st Century Learning Grants and similar funding streams. She highlighted that her current program offers tutoring, mentorship, and creative enrichment for children, completely free of charge, but faces transportation challenges preventing broader participation from Stoneville students.

A major topic centered on the lack of student transportation from Stoneville to Madison's after-school facility. Ms. Makris explained her attempts to gain district approval for a shuttle service, which had been denied. Discussion followed regarding the need for advocacy by parents before the school board and exploring partnerships with local entities or county commissioners. Suggestions included leveraging existing school buses during the summer months, shared-use agreements with churches, or even purchasing a small, dedicated shuttle vehicle. It was also suggested that Stoneville parents be encouraged to present transportation needs to the School Board.

Ms. Makris offered to prepare a presentation for a future session demonstrating how AI tools such as ChatGPT can help identify grant opportunities related to Parks and Recreation.

**Grant Planning and Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan**
The Board emphasized the need to establish a comprehensive master plan as a prerequisite for most grants, including the State's PARTF grant. Members agreed that without a unified plan outlining the town's goals, facilities, and community needs, future grant applications would be incomplete or rejected. The group discussed aligning short-term and long-term goals, with immediate priorities focused on community engagement, identifying recreational needs, and defining the scope of desired programs and facilities.

The Advisory Board will start the process of drafting a Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan to include public input sessions. Mr. Sands will compile examples from neighboring municipalities to guide structure and scope. The plan will serve as the foundation for future grant applications and budgeting.

**Funding, Staffing, and Consultant Considerations**

Mr. Smith's recommendation to consider hiring a consultant for approximately $30,000 to help develop the comprehensive plan was discussed. Some members felt external expertise could accelerate progress, while others preferred to leverage internal resources and partnerships through regional councils, universities, or volunteer experts. The group acknowledged that hiring a full-time Parks and Recreation Director—estimated salary between $40,000 and $65,000—was not financially feasible until the FY 2026 budget cycle.

The Advisory Board will evaluate consultant proposals and compare them to available support from the Piedmont Triad Regional Council and UNC School of Government programs before making a formal recommendation to Town Council.

**Short-Term Recreation Programming**

Members debated the feasibility of organizing a youth basketball season during the current winter. After reviewing existing commitments and resource constraints, the Board concluded that organizing a basketball program in the short term would be unrealistic. Attention shifted toward spring and summer programming, such as baseball, softball, or tee-ball, which previously had strong community engagement. The Board emphasized the critical role of volunteer support in sustaining programs. This item will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Parks and Recreation Responsibilities**

The committee discussed the distinction between "parks" and "recreation" functions, noting that each area requires unique expertise. Some members proposed eventually appointing separate coordinators—one focusing on facility maintenance and parks, and another on community programming. The discussion recognized that current staffing limits prevent immediate division but affirmed the need for clear role definitions in the forthcoming master plan.

The Board concluded by reaffirming the need for a structured, long-term strategy that includes community input and sustainable funding models. While no formal motions were adopted, consensus was achieved on prioritizing the comprehensive plan and developing spring recreation programs.

**Adjourned at 11:16 a.m.**

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Chairman, Curt Bennett Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson

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