

AGENDA

**Town of Stoneville Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
March 17, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Council Chambers - 101 Smith St.**

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Curt Bennett

WELCOME

APPROVAL OF MARCH 17, 2026 AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting - February 18, 2026

OLD BUSINESS

- Consultant update

NEW BUSINESS

- Pocket Park – 110 N. Henry Street
- Consideration of upgraded security cameras at Stoneville Memorial Park
- Improvements to Stoneville Memorial Park

COMMENTS

- Public
- Members
- Chair
- Administrator

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 21, 2026

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 18, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

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

Members Present – Chairman Curt Bennett, Jerry Smith, Charles Rakestraw, Chris Avis.

Members Absent – Kasie Pruitt, Pastor Kenneth Moore, David Price, Bob Bailey, Ed Brown.

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

A quorum was not present.

Call to Order and Welcome: Chairman Curt Bennett called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting was to hear a presentation from Lisa Wolfe, consultant with Barry Dunn, regarding potential consulting services for the development of a Parks and Recreation plan for the Town of Stoneville.

Introduction of Consultant

Board member Jerry Smith introduced Lisa Wolfe, explaining that she had been recommended by consultant Dale Smith, who previously conducted a recreation assessment in the area. Ms. Wolfe provided background information about her professional experience, noting that she served 31 years with the City of Burlington in Parks and Recreation and currently serves as Chair of the Alamance Parks Commission. She explained that she now works as a consultant assisting municipalities with parks and recreation planning, community engagement, and strategic development initiatives.

Consultant Presentation and Planning Process

Ms. Wolfe presented an overview of the consulting services offered through Barry Dunn, explaining that her firm assists municipalities with parks and recreation master planning, feasibility studies, operational assessments, and community engagement processes. She outlined a structured planning approach that includes preparation and document review, discovery sessions with board members, town staff, and community stakeholders, analysis of existing facilities and programming, and a visioning process to identify priorities for the town. The planning process would conclude with the development of a comprehensive Parks and Recreation plan that identifies short-term, mid-term, and long-term recommendations and provides guidance for implementation.

Proposed Project Timeline

Ms. Wolfe reviewed a proposed project timeline. If the Town elected to move forward with the consulting services, contracting could occur in March 2026, with the project beginning in

April 2026. Discovery sessions and community engagement would occur in late April, followed by analysis during May and June, visioning discussions in July, and development of a final plan between August and September. She noted that while the schedule is somewhat aggressive, the size of the community and the work already completed by the Town could allow the plan to be completed within this timeframe.

Community Vision and Recreation Priorities

Board members discussed their perspectives on the future of Parks and Recreation in Stoneville. Members emphasized the importance of increasing opportunities for children and youth participation in recreational activities, while also providing programming and services for senior citizens, which were identified as underserved groups within the community. Board members also discussed the growth occurring within Stoneville and the surrounding area, noting that new residential development and migration from larger cities into smaller towns create opportunities to expand recreational offerings and improve quality of life for residents.

Parks and Recreation Staffing

Discussion included the potential need for a Parks and Recreation Director to oversee programming, events, and facility management. Ms. Wolfe explained that communities of similar size often employ a recreation director and estimated that a typical salary range for a position in a town the size of Stoneville might fall between \$45,000 and \$55,000 annually, depending on experience and responsibilities. She recommended developing a comprehensive plan first to provide justification for the position and to establish priorities that a future director could implement.

Budget Considerations

Board members discussed the anticipated cost of consulting services, which was referenced at approximately \$30,000. Ms. Wolfe explained that consulting fees would be billed based on completed work phases rather than requiring full payment upfront. The board also discussed general recreation budgeting for small municipalities, and Ms. Wolfe indicated that a community the size of Stoneville might operate a Parks and Recreation program with an annual budget of approximately \$150,000 to \$170,000, depending on staffing, programming, and facility improvements.

Grant Opportunities and Funding

Ms. Wolfe emphasized the importance of having an adopted Parks and Recreation plan when pursuing grant funding. She discussed several potential funding sources, including the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which may provide significant financial support for park development and recreational facilities. While her consulting services would help position the town to apply for grants and identify funding opportunities, grant writing itself would not be included in the consulting contract.

Community Partnerships and Downtown Revitalization

The board discussed the potential role of partnerships with local businesses, merchants, county government, and state agencies in supporting recreation initiatives and community

events. Members noted that revitalizing downtown Stoneville and possibly re-establishing a merchants association could support events and help bring more activity into the community.

Existing Events and Community Programming

Town staff discussed current community events such as the Fall Festival, which is organized by the Stoneville Rotary Club, and the May Day Festival, which has historically been organized by town staff. Due to the significant time required to organize these events and limited staffing resources, the town may consider adjusting the format of certain events or introducing alternative programming such as music in the park or movie nights at Memorial Park to encourage greater community participation.

Due to the lack of a quorum, Chairman Curt Bennett recessed the meeting by consensus. The meeting was recessed to Tuesday, February 24th, at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers located at 101 Smith Street. Purpose of recessed meeting: to continue the discussion of agenda items and take possible action.

Recessed at 11:50 a.m.

February 24, 2026 – Reconvened Meeting

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, which was recessed on February 18, 2026, was reconvened at 10:24 a.m. on February 24, 2026. Charles Rakestraw made the motion to reconvene the meeting. Seconded by Chris Avis. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Staff Present – Town Administrator Michael Sands

Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the February 18, 2026 meeting agenda was made by Jerry Smith. Seconded by Charles Rakestraw. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve the January 20, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Charles Rakestraw. Seconded by Chris Avis. Motion carried unanimously.

The Chair began the discussion by expressing appreciation to a board member for personally funding and installing a new directional sign at the park complex entrance to improve visibility and accessibility for visitors. The sign was noted as a positive addition to the park facilities and part of broader efforts to enhance the park complex.

Old Business

Consultant: The Board reviewed and discussed the recent virtual presentation provided by consultant Lisa Wolf of BerryDunn regarding the development of a comprehensive Parks and

Recreation strategic plan. The proposed process outlined by the consultant included several phases: preparation, discovery sessions, analysis, visioning, summary of findings, and implementation planning. The projected timeline for the full planning process was estimated at approximately six to nine months. During the previous discussion with the consultant, board members raised questions regarding implementation steps, staffing, and long-term program sustainability. It was noted that the consultant advised that hiring a parks and recreation director would likely occur after completion of the strategic planning process rather than beforehand.

Board members discussed the potential financial implications of implementing the consultant's recommendations. The consultant indicated that a potential recreation director position could range between approximately \$45,000 and \$55,000 annually, while a fully functioning parks and recreation program might require a future operating budget in the range of \$150,000 to \$175,000 annually. The current budget for parks and recreation was reported to be significantly lower, with approximately \$40,000 allocated and about \$30,000 remaining for the current fiscal year. Members acknowledged that cost and funding sources would likely be the most significant challenges when presenting the proposal to the Town Council.

Community Growth and Long-Term Recreation Needs

Board members discussed the significant residential development currently occurring within the community and the anticipated growth in population, particularly families with children. It was estimated that recent and planned housing developments could bring over one hundred new homes to the area within the next few years, potentially resulting in several hundred additional children living in the community. Members emphasized that this growth would increase demand for organized recreation programs, facilities, and youth activities. Several members expressed the opinion that the town should proactively plan for these needs rather than react after the population increases. The Board also discussed the broader community benefits of a strong recreation program, including youth engagement, community identity, and the potential for economic and social development.

Grant Opportunities and Funding Considerations

The discussion also addressed the potential for state and federal grant funding to support park and recreation improvements. Members noted that many grant programs require municipalities to have a formal recreation master plan in place before applications can be submitted. It was emphasized that a professionally developed plan could significantly improve the town's competitiveness when applying for grant funding. Participants with experience in grant writing noted that the process is complex and requires a clear vision, supporting documentation, and strategic planning. Board members acknowledged that a consultant could help guide the planning process and provide the necessary framework to pursue grant funding opportunities in the future.

Alternative Collaboration Options

The Board also considered an alternative option of partnering more formally with the Madison-Mayodan Recreation Department to provide programs for Stoneville residents. Some members suggested contributing financially to the existing regional recreation

program might allow Stoneville residents to access established programs at a lower cost while the town develops its own long-term recreation strategy. Additional discussion focused on potential cooperative efforts, such as shared programming, reduced participation fees for Stoneville residents, and possible regional collaboration across western Rockingham County communities. While some members supported exploring these partnerships, others expressed concern that relying solely on another municipality's recreation program might limit Stoneville's ability to develop its own facilities and long-term vision.

Vision for Recreation Development

Several members emphasized the importance of developing a clear, long-term vision for parks and recreation in the community. Discussion highlighted the need for community cooperation among local government, civic organizations, churches, and private partners to support recreation initiatives. Members also discussed existing facilities, including ball fields and community centers, and ongoing efforts to pursue grants for improvements such as lighting, bleachers, and restroom facilities. The consensus among several members was that the town is at a critical crossroads and that proactive planning would allow Stoneville to build a sustainable recreation program that benefits current and future residents.

Motion to Recommend Hiring a Consultant

Following extensive discussion, a motion was made by Jerry Smith recommending that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board move forward with hiring BerryDunn as a consultant to assist with preparation, discovery, analysis, visioning, and implementation planning for a comprehensive parks and recreation program. The motion further recommended that this proposal be presented to the Town Council for consideration and potential approval. Seconded by Charles Rakestraw. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Pocket Park – 110 N. Henry Street: Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed and will appear on the March 17th meeting agenda.

Motion to adjourn made by Jerry Smith. Seconded by Bob Bailey. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Chairman, Curt Bennett

Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson