

## **AGENDA**

**Town of Stoneville Parks and Recreation  
Advisory Board Meeting  
April 21, 2026 - 10:00 AM  
Council Chambers - 101 Smith St.**

**CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Curt Bennett**

**WELCOME**

**APPROVAL OF APRIL 21, 2026 AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Meeting - March 17, 2026

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Maintenance and improvements at Stoneville Memorial Park

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Consultant Work Session

**COMMENTS**

- Public
- Members
- Chair
- Administrator

**NEXT MEETING: MAY 19, 2026**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date: March 17, 2026**

**Time: 10:00 AM**

**Location: Council Chambers – 101 Smith Street, Stoneville, NC**

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

Staff Present – Town Administrator Michael Sands

A quorum was present.

**Call to Order:** Chairman Curt Bennett called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all members, staff, and guests in attendance. The Chair noted that meetings have been relocated to the Council Chambers to improve efficiency and better accommodate participation. Appreciation was expressed to board members who previously attended the Town Council meeting and advocated for parks and recreation initiatives, which directly contributed to Council's unanimous decision to move forward with engaging a Parks and Recreation consultant.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion to approve the March 17, 2026 meeting agenda was made by Jerry Smith. Seconded by Chris Avis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the February 18, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Jerry Smith. Seconded by Chris Avis. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Old Business**

**Consultant Update:** The Board discussed the Town Council's recent approval to move forward with Lisa Wolff, a Parks and Recreation consultant with BerryDunn. The consultant is expected to guide the development of a comprehensive recreation plan over an estimated six- to nine-month period. Board members acknowledged that this process will provide critical direction on future programming, facility improvements, and long-term investment strategies. It was further noted that the Town is entering a learning phase, and the consultant's recommendations will likely influence decisions related to amenities such as sports fields and courts, programming, and overall park development priorities.

### **Guest Presentation – Tennis Programming and Recreation Opportunities**

Ms. Shelby Ryan provided an in-depth presentation regarding tennis participation, programming opportunities, and the broader recreational landscape. She highlighted that tennis participation has grown significantly nationwide, with approximately 27 million players and continued expansion supported by the United States Tennis Association. Locally, Rockingham County has seen substantial investment in tennis infrastructure, including 31

public courts, many of which are newly constructed. She emphasized that Stoneville's existing concrete tennis court is unique and represents a valuable, though underutilized, asset within the regional network of facilities.

Ms. Ryan introduced program concepts such as "Red Ball" tennis, which allows a single court to be divided into multiple smaller courts to accommodate beginner instruction, youth engagement, and family participation. She also discussed USTA-supported programs that provide structured, low-cost entry points for participants. While expressing willingness to assist with program implementation, she cautioned that participation levels may initially be modest and emphasized that such programming should be viewed as a community engagement and wellness initiative rather than a primary revenue source.

#### **Programming, Revenue, and Facility Use Discussion**

The Board engaged in discussion regarding potential program structure, fees, and sustainability. It was noted that tennis programming on a single court is unlikely to generate significant revenue; however, modest cost-sharing models—such as per-participant fees—could offset expenses. Examples from other facilities were discussed, including returning a portion of registration fees to the Town. The Board emphasized that the primary goal is to increase park usage, promote wellness, and encourage community participation rather than focus solely on revenue generation.

Additional discussion addressed the growing popularity of pickleball and the practicality of shared or multi-use court space. It was noted that future consultant recommendations may include expanding or converting facilities to better accommodate pickleball, given its strong appeal among adult users. Ms. Ryan noted that initial programming could begin as early as June, depending on coordination and interest.

#### **Facility Conditions and Program Feasibility**

Ms. Ryan and Board members discussed the current condition of the Memorial Park tennis court. The court was described as functional and suitable for basic programming, though it lacks a finished surface and may not meet the expectations of professional instruction environments. Despite this, it was noted that temporary and adaptable programming formats, such as Red Ball tennis, could be successfully implemented without significant immediate investment. The Board acknowledged that incremental improvements could enhance usability over time.

#### **New Business**

**Pocket Park – 110 N. Henry Street:** The Board conducted a detailed discussion regarding the proposed "pocket park" project, which has been under consideration for an extended period. Members reviewed conceptual renderings previously developed and discussed the need to move the project forward toward implementation. The location of the pocket park was clarified as a small area in the downtown vicinity, generally described as being across from local landmarks and extending toward the library, with existing green space and limited infrastructure.

The original intent of the pocket park project was discussed, with particular emphasis on addressing the lack of accessible public restroom facilities in the downtown area. It was noted that prior planning efforts included a comprehensive design, with approximately \$20,000 invested in renderings and concept development. Additionally, the Board discussed that dedicated funding—approximately \$63,000—remains allocated specifically for this project and may be restricted in use unless formally amended.

Board members raised concerns regarding safety conditions at the site, particularly related to existing structures and unsecured areas that could pose risks to children and the public. It was suggested that pursuing construction of restroom facilities, as originally intended, may represent a practical and achievable next step, especially given that funding has already been designated for that purpose. The idea of obtaining contractor estimates was discussed as a means to advance the project and determine feasibility.

The Board generally agreed that, despite the length of time the project has been discussed, there is a need to move forward with a defined scope and actionable plan. The pocket park was recognized as a potentially valuable downtown amenity that could enhance accessibility, support community events, and contribute to overall revitalization efforts.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Jerry Smith to retain a General Contractor to oversee the restroom and pathway projects at the Pocket Park. The motion was seconded by Chris Avis and carried unanimously.

**Consideration of upgraded security cameras at Stoneville Memorial Park:** Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed and will appear on a future agenda.

**Improvements to Stoneville Memorial Park:** Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed and will appear on the next meeting agenda.

Motion to adjourn made by Jerry Smith. Seconded by Chris Avis. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourned at 11:39 a.m.**

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Chairman, Curt Bennett

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Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson