

AGENDA

**Town of Stoneville Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board Meeting
June 16, 2026 - 10:00 AM
Council Chambers - 101 Smith St.**

CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Curt Bennett

WELCOME

APPROVAL OF JUNE 16, 2026 AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Meeting – April 21, 2026

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS

- Update on Pocket Park, Security Cameras at Memorial Park, and Parks and Recreation Survey
- Meeting Schedule July - December

COMMENTS

- Public
- Members
- Chair
- Administrator

NEXT MEETING: TBD

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 21, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM

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

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

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

Approval of Agenda: A motion to approve the April 21, 2026 meeting agenda was made by Charles Rakestraw. Seconded by Jerry Smith. Motion carried.

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

New Business

Consultant Work Session: Consultant Lisa Wolff facilitated a discussion focused on gathering stakeholder input for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Ms. Wolff explained that her firm was evaluating options for obtaining meaningful public engagement, including the possibility of conducting a community survey. She emphasized the importance of community participation and advised board members that they would play a key role in encouraging residents to provide feedback throughout the planning process. She also reviewed upcoming public engagement opportunities, including participation at the Town's May Day Festival, where residents would have access to surveys.

The board participated in a guided discussion centered on four primary topics: what is currently working well within the community, challenges facing parks and recreation, opportunities for future growth, and issues the Town should be mindful of as planning moves forward. Members generally agreed that Stoneville is experiencing a period of positive momentum and growth. Discussion highlighted the Town's existing recreational assets, including Stoneville Memorial Park, athletic fields, walking trails, shelters, and community facilities. Members noted that while these assets are valuable, they are not being utilized to their fullest potential and could benefit from increased promotion and community awareness.

Discussion focused heavily on existing recreational facilities and their current use. Members noted that the park is actively utilized by several travel baseball teams and a Christian school baseball program. It was also noted that a makeshift soccer field exists within the park. The ongoing restroom renovation project was discussed, with expectations that completion of

the project would improve the overall user experience and increase park usage. Participants also discussed the trail adjacent to the park and the need for maintenance and improvements, including removal of fallen trees and better connectivity.

Board members discussed anticipated residential growth within Stoneville and the impact that new development will have on future recreation needs. Several members referenced current and planned housing developments that are expected to bring additional families and children into the community. Concerns were raised that growth may occur more quickly than the Town is prepared to accommodate if planning does not begin now. Participants agreed that future recreational planning should account for these population increases and focus on enhancing quality-of-life amenities that will attract and retain residents.

A significant portion of the discussion focused on opportunities for partnerships with neighboring communities and organizations. Members expressed interest in exploring cooperative relationships with the Madison-Mayodan Parks and Recreation Department, local schools, the YMCA, and other community organizations. It was noted that Madison-Mayodan currently operates a well-established recreation program and may provide opportunities for collaboration while Stoneville develops its own recreation offerings.

Members emphasized that any partnership should consider not only athletics but also senior programming, special events, wellness activities, and other recreational opportunities that serve all age groups.

Funding and sustainability were recurring topics throughout the meeting. Participants discussed the challenges associated with maintaining recreational facilities on limited funding and acknowledged that the current Parks and Recreation budget has historically been modest. The consultant explained that adoption of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan would position the Town to pursue state and federal grant opportunities, including the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The importance of capital improvement planning, long-term budgeting, and strategic investment in facilities was emphasized.

Members discussed the importance of maintaining existing facilities before pursuing major expansions. Several participants referenced previous survey results indicating that residents place a high priority on maintaining current assets. Concerns were raised regarding the long-term maintenance of playground equipment, athletic facilities, trails, and other park infrastructure. The consultant stressed that proper maintenance planning, routine inspections, and dedicated funding streams are essential to sustaining a successful parks and recreation system.

The conversation expanded to include broader community development issues and their relationship to recreation planning. Members discussed anticipated growth associated with regional economic development projects, including large-scale developments occurring in neighboring areas. Participants noted that Stoneville has an opportunity to position itself as an attractive community by enhancing recreational amenities and quality-of-life features.

The need for commercial development, including the desire for a grocery store and additional services, was also discussed as part of the broader vision for community growth.

Board members emphasized the importance of engaging younger families and residents throughout the planning process. Discussion included working with local schools, parent groups, and community organizations to encourage participation and gather input.

Members noted that future generations increasingly seek recreational opportunities beyond traditional athletics, including social gathering spaces, technology access, walking trails, outdoor recreation, and wellness-oriented amenities.

The consultant encouraged members to continue serving as ambassadors for the planning process and stressed the importance of keeping discussions focused on long-term community needs rather than individual recreational interests. Participants agreed that the planning effort presents an opportunity to establish a clear vision for parks and recreation that can guide future investments and support continued growth within the community.

Near the conclusion of the meeting, Town Administrator Michael Sands provided an update on recent improvements at Stoneville Memorial Park. He reported that vegetation and brush had been cleared near the bridge and creek area within the park and that two deteriorated shelter structures had been removed. He also provided an update on the restroom renovation project, noting that construction was expected to begin shortly. He also reported that quotes were being obtained for security camera upgrades to improve safety and monitoring along park pathways and trails. Discussion also included previous proposals related to improvements at the tennis courts and the potential addition of pickleball amenities.

Mr. Sands further updated the board regarding plans for the proposed pocket park project. He explained that Council had authorized the issuance of requests for proposals to obtain cost estimates and determine whether available funding would be sufficient to complete the project. Discussion centered on approaching the project in phases, with priority placed on restroom facilities and associated infrastructure improvements before proceeding with landscaping, pathways, and other enhancements.

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

Adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Chairman, Curt Bennett

Town Clerk, Deleia Hutcherson