



**Town of Clayton  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, April 13, 2026, at 6:00 PM  
The Community Center  
715 Amelia Church Road**

Pursuant to N.C. General Statute § 143-318.10(e), these minutes provide a general summary of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting and do not represent a verbatim transcript.

**Present:**

Kuanyu Chen  
Derek Cominskie  
Chris Duty  
Adrienne Beranger  
Bradley Shepard  
Corie Miller  
Charles Counts  
Morgan Jones  
Denise Husband

**Staff Present:**

Amanda Underwood, Council Member Liaison  
Todd Riddick, Parks & Recreation Director  
Lauren Box, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director  
Lauren Lambert, Board Clerk Proxy

**Absent:**

Rebecca Bradford  
Mark Morgan  
Greg Forde  
Carol Houston

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- a. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. DRAFT Minutes 9 March 26

**POTENTIAL ACTION:** Approval of Minutes

**3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

- a. Parks and Recreation Spotlight- New Assistant Director

**Presenter:** Lauren Box, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director

Todd Riddick introduced the new Assistant Director, Lauren Box. Ms. Box shared key points about herself, including that she was born and raised in California and has over 15 years of experience in recreation. Her former role was that of Superintendent in San Jose, where she oversaw seven facilities, 200+ part-time/full-time staff, worked on budgets, scholarships, policy development, coaching/mentoring staff and volunteers, and emergency response management. Ms. Box loves what Parks and Recreation does for communities and the opportunities it gives to connect with residents. The Board also had the chance to introduce themselves to Lauren.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Clayton Active Living Center Update

**Presenter:** Todd Riddick, Parks and Recreation Director

**POTENTIAL ACTION:** Informational Only

Mr. Riddick updated the Board about the progress on the new facility, unofficially named the Clayton Active Center. The auction of the used equipment is ending, and the Town has currently received about \$95,000 in sales from the auction. The Parks and Recreation Department and Procurement are coordinating times to schedule pickup of these items. Next, engineers will work through the different phases of construction and take those ideas to Council for approval. The facility will provide prime indoor space which is much needed as our current spaces are maxed out. For example, our new sewing class is starting with a max registration of 8 participants but has 19 on a waitlist. There is a great need for more space. One question that was raised concerned possible parking upgrades to the facility. Mr. Riddick commented that those upgrades will be considered in the final plans and one goal is to help traffic flow more efficiently. He added that upgraded parking plans at East Clayton Park have been designed, featuring a one-way in, one-way out traffic flow pattern that would allow for 150 more parking spaces, a much-needed amenity at the park. No schedule for this upgrade has been established.

b. Recreation Advisory Board Tour- Site Visit Selection

**Presenter:** Todd Riddick, Parks and Recreation Director

**POTENTIAL ACTION:** Informational Only

The annual Board tour is slated for June 8, during the regularly scheduled Advisory Board meeting. There was a brief discussion of the potential properties to be visited. Mr. Riddick requested the Board email any questions about facilities so that information could be gathered ahead of the tour to share. He also proposed that Jimmy Bradley, our Park Operations Superintendent, attend as well to help educate members about past Bond projects and how they have impacted our current facilities.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

a. 2026 Larry Bailey Scholarship Committee Appointments

**Presenter:** Kuanyu Chen, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

**POTENTIAL ACTION:** Informational Only

The Larry Bailey Scholarship committee was recognized as a need at our last meeting. Members who expressed interest in serving were Bradley Shepard, Kuanyu Chen, Rebecca Bradford and Carol Houston. Kuanyu Chen, as Board chair, appointed these members to serve on the committee. A future meeting will be held with the Parks and Recreation staff to discuss steps forward in developing guidelines to streamline the scholarship process, including qualifications, applications and review.

## **6. STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Riddick shared that a new position for Parks and Recreation starts on Monday, April 20 and will be filled by Mackenzie Dolecheck. She will be our new Recreation Program Supervisor overseeing Inclusion and Seniors. She comes from Wake Forest and has both an undergraduate and Master's degree from East Carolina University. We are still working on an official agreement with our garden community. Journey League was visited by Casey Morsell from NCSU last week and our last session is coming up Friday, April 17. Summer Camp is upon us. We have been able to add from our waitlist and have enrolled 90-95 kids per week. However, we still have a long waitlist each week. Our athletic pre-season tournaments and T-ball games start this week, and adult softball and kickball registrations are open. Senior

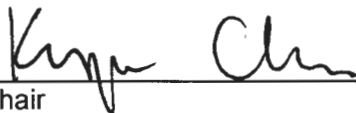
Games are ongoing and the Clayton Clovers baseball begins May 24th. Our parks are getting ready for the busy season and are looking great. Town staff will be at the downtown Farmer's Market this Saturday, April 18, passing out Dogwood and Crepe Myrtle seedlings in honor of Arbor Day. Our recent Easter Egg Hunt event was a success.

## 7. BOARD COMMENTS

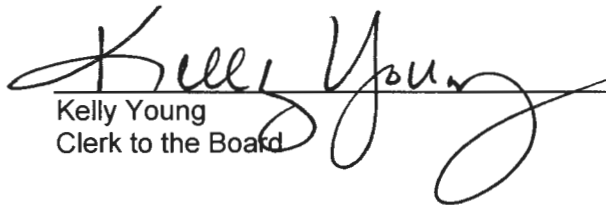
Mr. Chen mentioned the Johnston County Senior Games and volunteering opportunities still available. Ms. Husband inquired about a recent meeting regarding the Mule Building property and the recommendations that may have been shared. Councilmember Underwood reported that the building will remain, but no future plans are known at this time. She also shared that she received a request for a family-friendly skate park, not a traditional park, but small ramps or a place to learn to ride a bike. Mr. Chen mentioned his experience with a non-profit in Raleigh that helps kids learn to ride. He would love to come talk about wheeled activities with interested parties. He has done several pop-up events at Dorothea Dix Park and would love to see something like this in Clayton. Ms. Husband reiterated that she mentioned the skate park idea to the Clayton Community Recreation Foundation. Councilmember Underwood said that the idea is also listed as an item on the Town's Capital Improvement Projects.

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Duly adopted by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board on Monday, May 11, 2026, while in regular session.

  
Chair

ATTEST:

  
Kelly Young  
Clerk to the Board