



**Town of Clayton**  
**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes**  
**Monday, February 10, 2025 at 6:00 PM**  
**The Community Center, 715 Amelia Church Road**

<p><b>Board Members Present:</b> Travis Crowder Denise Husband Emily Beddingfield Natasha Ellis-Smith Carol Houston Kuanyu Chen Corie Miller Charles Counts Mark S. Morgan Greg Forde</p> <p><b>Board Members Absent:</b> Rebecca Bradford Ruth Anderson, Council Member</p>	<p><b>Staff Present:</b> Scott Barnard, Parks &amp; Recreation Director Todd Riddick, Parks &amp; Recreation Assistant Director Kelly Young, Board Clerk</p>
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**1 CALL TO ORDER**

- a) The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

**2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) DRAFT Minutes

**Adoption of 13 January 25 Minutes**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Emily Beddingfield
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Travis Crowder

**3 OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Clayton Community Park Project  
*Presenter:* Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard shared that Community Park is very close to completion. Crews are working diligently to resolve a handful of pending flaws in construction. Workers have been sandblasting some paint issues on shuffleboard and once temperatures increase, they will repaint the surface in March. The playground is ¾ installed while

surfacing showed up last week and is being installed by a local company from Pittsboro. The playground is a Berliner product and will look different from the traditional post and platform design. It will have a more organic look with lots of cables, ropes and a combo of slides and swings. Similar sets appear in Apex, Holly Springs and at Municipal. The equipment was selected by our staff, but kid feedback was given consideration. The tennis and pickleball courts are ready, the Maintenance yard is established, and the parking lot lighting is working. Plans are to open the area to the public before the official Grand Opening. We are waiting for inspections on the storm water retention pond.

- b) Legend Park Project  
*Presenter:* Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

An update on Legend Park revealed that much of the waste in the lobes has been captured in the center of the site. Crews are working to grade the site along the fringe and reset the topography. This will be a year-long process and will include establishing the cover crop. Upon completion, the site will be released back to the Town and the Greenway can reopen. Utility work for a road connection related to housing nearby will take place when the site is finished as well as work on the parking area. The project is scheduled to be completed in January 2026.

#### **4 NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Clayton Area Runners  
*Presenter:* Jesse Rineheart Sr, Clayton Area Runners Representative

The Clayton Area Runners Club was invited to speak to the Advisory Board by Emily Beddingfield to share concerns they had about usage of the CHS track. Mrs. Beddingfield said she had spoken with Council Member Porter Casey, and he would also like to see a resolution regarding access to CHS facilities. This has been an area that Council has actively been discussing and would like to hear from the Advisory Board on thoughts concerning the matter. One concern is the understanding that the Town contributed funds to the upgrades of the school facilities, yet the public is unable to use the facilities. Mr. Barnard explained that the School Board signed the joint-use agreement for 20 years. The school has priority in scheduling and the Town's usage is secondary. Parks and Recreation can schedule and rent the facilities when not being utilized by the school and the rent is split in half quarterly between the Town and Johnston County Schools. Parks and Recreation athletic staff and CHS Athletic Director John Asmussen coordinate facility usage together. The agreement does not convert the school into a park during off hours; this is a misconception. Most joint-use agreements swap services. At the meeting, the Clayton Area Runners Club was represented by several members including Jesse Rineheart who served as the spokesperson for the group. He shared that in the past, he ran at CHS for years with no issue, but now the gates are locked. He requested a copy of the joint-use agreement and Mr. Barnard responded that he would put him in touch with the Town Clerk. Rineheart said he was told by CHS Athletic Director Asmussen that the Parks and Recreation Department was responsible for allowing gates to be open and that Parks and Recreation had permission to unlock gates at 5am and lock back at 6am. In addition, he said the JCPS Security Office told him it could be opened. He referenced emails sent in January 2024 to get a resolution from Parks and Recreation but received no response. He mentioned that his point of contact had been Matt Lorion. He further shared that some Club runners were locked inside the CHS gate yesterday

along with CHS runners. Rineheart's request on behalf of the Club is to be allowed to use the track and not pay a rental fee. Rineheart expressed that lots of runners want to use the track during off hours and since no improvements were made to the track in the recent upgrades, he feels there should be no fee. Runners should not have to rent the track. Other points of discussion included Parks and Recreation maintenance on facilities, SSS allowing citizens to use their track after hours, interest in viewing other joint-use agreements in surrounding towns, the possibility of a formal request being made by the Runner's Club to Council, separating track rental from CHS turf field rental, insurance, damage to fields, mitigating risks, etc. Rineheart shared that the Club is 1200 runners strong so the interest in seeking resolution is high. Rineheart thanked the Board for their time and Mrs. Beddingfield noted that the Board would be in touch.

- b) Recreation Advisory Board Annual Report Presentation to Council  
*Presenter:* Emily Beddingfield, Recreation Advisory Board Chair

The Advisory Board is scheduled to present its Annual Report on February 17<sup>th</sup> to Town Council. Emily Beddingfield, Natasha Ellis-Smith, and Kuanyu Chen volunteered to present but all the Board support is encouraged. It was requested that members dress in Advisory polos. Mrs. Beddingfield commented that the main presentation points to Council would include the fact that Parks and Recreation is one of the most public-facing departments and that we must remember that we have an adopted plan to utilize.

- c) Candidate Discussion for 2025 Advisory Board Positions  
*Presenter:* Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Natasha Ellis-Smith shared that she will not step up to the Chair position or serve as Vice-Chair in the coming year due to other obligations. Kuanyu Chen and Mark Morgan, our nominees for Board Chair positions, will be voted on at the March meeting. Emily reminded the Board to continue considering subcommittee ideas. The discussion was tabled until our next meeting due to time constraints.

- d) Senior Programming, Senior Games & More  
*Presenter:* Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard shared the need for Senior Games volunteers and encouraged members to sign up. Information about volunteer opportunities was sent in a recent email.

- e) Annual Board Tour  
*Presenter:* Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Due to interest, another Board tour of the Town Parks and Recreation facilities and future expansions is tentatively planned for a Saturday or Sunday in April. A Doodle Poll will be sent to the Board to determine preference. The tour would last between 3-4 hours and would include a set agenda.

## 5 STAFF REPORTS

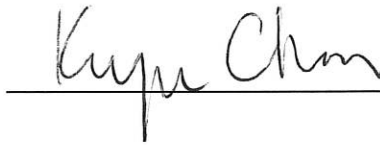
Mr. Barnard reported that Summer Camp is about 50% full. There will be ten weeks of camp at one site with eighty campers each week. An updated form for the Larry Bailey Scholarship has been formalized and a link posted on our website. Youth awarded could receive up to \$400 at a 50% subsidy. A question was asked about the need for volunteers for Summer

Camp. Mr. Barnard affirmed and would work on getting those opportunities announced to the Summer Overlook community as requested. He also shared that basketball is going strong, and baseball signups are currently underway. Todd Riddick added a plug for the new Journey League, an inclusive basketball program. Open House for more information would be held Sunday, Feb 16, and the program is set to begin on Friday, Feb 28 at 6:30. The enrollment goal is 30 participants. Another plug was made for the Walk and Talk Trails event. A flyer with more information was referenced. At the end of staff reports, a question was posed about community outreach opportunities. One example mentioned was the Blessing Boxes around Town. Mrs. Beddingfield suggested members build a framework for a proposal to discuss with the Board. Finally, several members of the tennis community who attended the meeting expressed concerns over the lack of playable courts. It was suggested they contact Mrs. Beddingfield, Mr. Barnard or Kelly Young, the Board Clerk, to be added to a future agenda for further discussion if necessary.

**6 ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Duly adopted this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025 while in regular session.



Board Chair



Board Clerk