



MINUTES

Kinston/Lenoir County Parks & Recreation Department January 9, 2025 5:30pm Kinston Community Center

MEMBERS PRESENT

Sue Ellen Maddux	Keith King
Roger Jones	Gary Wojeski
Jonathan Britt	Mary Margaret Keith
Aaron Yarus	Jimi Pope

MEMBERS ABSENT

Lauran Tyndall	Antonio Hardy
Steve Oliver	Bryan Hanks
Clifton Hargett	Billy Hooker
Jeff Wooten	

Chair, Sue Ellen Maddux welcomed everyone to the January 9, 2025 meeting and opened the meeting with prayer. There was a motion made to approve the December 12, 2024 minutes.

Motion – Yarus; Second - Jones; Vote – Unanimous.

Sue Ellen Maddux welcomed Jonathan Britt to his first meeting as a Recreation Commission member. Jonathan stated that he graduated from NLHS with Scott Alston and received his Biological Engineering degree from NC State after playing baseball at Louisburg and LCC. Jonathan stated he is employed with Greenville Utilities and his wife is a Special Education teacher at NLHS. Scott Alston introduced Jonathan Massey, the newly hired Center Director/Naturalist at the Neuseway Nature Park. Jonathan stated that he graduated from GCHS and attended UNCW before receiving Associate's Degrees in Business and Marketing from LCC. Jonathan stated that he spent much time at the Nature Center when he was young and has many new projects planned for the facility. Scott introduced Josh Bass, Recreation Superintendent, to give a Freedom Classic update. Josh stated that the 14th annual tournament will be held February 21-23, 2025 at Grainger Stadium and invited all Recreation Commission members to the Captains lunch on February 21, and the Players banquet on February 22. Josh stated that the Marine Corp band will be performing the National Anthem on February 21 and the Bandit Flight Team will provide a pre-game performance on February 23.

Scott Alston stated that the parking lot lines at Fairfield and Bill Fay have been painted and that Georgia K. Battle and Holloway will be completed soon. Scott stated that the bleacher installation at Holloway will be complete within the next week. Scott stated that the bleachers at Fairfield will be complete prior to June 30, 2025. Scott stated that with the city and county combined, there are 20 9U basketball teams, 20 12U teams, and four 15U teams this season.

Scott Alston distributed information that has been gathered for the Kinston/Lenoir County Master Plan, including national, acreage, and budget benchmarks, public input, visual preferences, and county-owned park concepts. Scott stated that McGill & Associates, who are designing the Master Plan proposal, will be holding focus group meetings within the next several weeks. Scott stated that there will be a focus group meeting held for the Recreation Commission at the February meeting.

Mary Margaret Keith stated that there will be pickleball tournament held at Kinston Community Center, with overflow at Fairfield, on February 8, 2025. Mary Margaret stated that all proceeds will benefit Hope Restorations and an anonymous will be matching the funds raised.

Sue Ellen Maddux stated that there will be two open Recreation Commission seats (City and

Banks/LaGrange) in March and a new Chair and possibly Vice-Chair will need to be voted on at the February meeting.

With no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion – Keith; Second – Wojeski; Vote – Unanimous.

Melissa McCoy

Secretary to Kinston/Lenoir County Parks & Recreation Commission