



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday May 20, 2026

5:30PM

Skyline Center 929 N. Front St

Azalea Room 154H

or [Teams Meeting](#)

Call to Order Chair: Terry Smith

Call to order 5:32 PM

Other Attendees:

Franklin Boney – Board Member

Paul Connor – Board Member

Ingrid Corbi – Board Member

Zach Gilbert – Board Member

Jo Pendry – Board Member

Philip ‘Wes’ Riley – Vice Chair, Friends of Halyburton Park

John Taggant – Chair, Friends of Halyburton Park

Staff Liaison: Amy Beatty, Parks & Recreation Director

Andy Fairbanks, Recreation Supervisor – Halyburton Park

Public comment period (3 minutes)

None

Approval of April 2026 Minutes

Motion was called by Ingrid Corbi to approve the April PRAB meeting minutes. Motion was seconded by Jo Pendry. Motion passes unanimously.

New Business:

- Friends of Halyburton Presentation by Andy Fairbanks

Last summer, a small group of individuals got together and wanted to show support for the park. The group started meeting in the park and volunteering. This past February they decided to establish themselves as a non-profit friend’s group and are currently applying for 501c3 status. They have a mission statement that states:

“The Friends of Halyburton Park is a dedicated volunteer group committed to supporting, enhancing, and preserving the park, its programs and 60-acre nature preserve. The mission is to engage and inspire individuals and communities to appreciate and protect local wildlife and natural habitats through education, advocacy and stewardship.”

The group is asking for endorsement from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the Parks and Rec Department. They will then file articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State then apply for their 501c3 status with the IRS. The group does plan on doing some fundraising after they obtained their 501c3 status. There are approximately 20 people meeting once a month. The group is requesting to use the Halyburton Nature Center's address as their group's address. Motion to approve and support the Friends of Halyburton volunteer group was made by Jo Pendry and seconded by Ingrid Corbi. Motion passed unanimously.

- Election for Board Chair and Vice Chair

Terry asked the board members if they would like to nominate anyone for the Chair and Vice Chair. Ingrid Corbi stated that she would like to nominate Terry Smith for another term as Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Jo Pendry seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

Terry asked if there were any nominations for Vice Chair. Franklin Boney nominated Jo Pendry to take over as the Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Paul Connor seconded the nomination. Motion passed unanimously.

Guest staff speakers: N/A

Old Business

Presentation for Open Space Preservation (Goal #5) – Joe Pendry and Franklin Boney. Jo started the presentation with the goal of finding and identifying three properties to preserve open space for the Parks and Recreation Department by December 2026. The criteria would be to find areas of the city without neighborhood-level parks and recreation facilities. Jo and Franklin have reviewed GIS maps to try to identify those parcels. The area between Love Grove and Anne McCrary Park has been identified in the city's comprehensive greenway plan and a possible nature path. Amy stated that there is currently a portion under design from the rail bed under third street to Love Grove Park is the first phase of the plan. The WMPO is the lead agency on that project. The second area is the parcels directly adjacent to the 929 building on Front Street. Jo stated that she has heard many residents want a dog park for their dogs to be off leash. She suggested maybe a pop-up dog park in the area at 305 Chestnut Street. Amy stated that 305 Chestnut was not an option because it's not big enough. They are laying some sod, but the area will not be able to accommodate a dog park. Amy stated that she cannot evaluate each area separately during the meeting, but will take the list and hand it over to the planning department for evaluation and their perspective on the areas in question. Franklin asked about a large parcel at 3603 River Road. The NC Port Authority owns that acreage along the river and there are additional parcels that could be a possibility on Raleigh Street.

Franklin's recommendation would be to have the city work with the Port Authority to convert all or part of the unused or underutilized space into a park on the river. He also mentioned Godwin Park, but that field is used by the county school system. Jo had another possible area at 906 Fanning Street. She said that it could be a good place for a playground, dog park or community garden. Amy stated that this is still owned by the city and there have been many conversations about this area about a possible pool relocation for Northside Pool. There is another possible area in Mayfaire and the address is 4103 Proximity Point. The property is currently slated for development. Franklin also stated that there are other areas such as 2441 Princess Place Drive, which is for sale by the city. 3100 Hurst Street, that is adjacent to Maides Park and the Davis Center. Also, 510 Cando Street, which is six acres of Corning property that has recently been listed for sale. The mid-town options are 5529 Park Avenue, 5510 Oleander Drive, and 316 Marlboro. Amy stated that the parcel at 316 Marlboro has been permitted by planning and it is recreational in nature. There is also a private residential parcel on Airlie Road. This is a possible land trust purchase to never be developed in the future. Other properties to keep on the radar are 360 Allens Lane, 4103 Paroximity, 6670 Carolina Beach Road, 1114 South 17th Street, 722 North 4th Street, 812 North 4th Street, 302 Bladen Street, and 401 Bladen Street.

Committee Reports

- Parks & Greenway Committee Goal 3 + 5 Adopt-a-Park initiative
 - Committee Chair: Jo Pendry
 - Members: Ingrid Corbi, Franklin Boney, Paul Connor
- Engagement Committee Goal 2 + 4
 - Terry said that he will confirm with Zach about having a gathering in July to plan something for Parks and Rec month.
- Student Involvement Committee Goal 1
 - N/A

Chair's Report

- Terry asked about the new 5th Avenue Beautification group and how that is going. Amy stated that even though that project is not going through our department anymore, the plan that they submitted was well received and they are hoping to get the project started soon.

Staff Report

- Amy wanted to thank everyone for coming to the Greenville Loop engagement event at MLK. It was very well attended. About 100 people came and there were many design firms that came out to have some interactive questions for the people who participated. There is another engagement event at Bradley Creek Elementary school. The student families as well as Saint Mark's School and the surrounding neighbors will be invited to come out to the event.
- There will be a new pop-up park located at 305 Chestnut Street and will be the temporary home of the America 250 art installation before it is moved permanently to Water Street. The name of the park will be 'Celebration Park'.

Board Member Round Table

N/A

Adjournment 6:20 pm

Jo Pendry motioned to adjourn, Franklin Boney provided a second and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting: Wednesday June 17th, 2026, 5:30PM Skyline Center Azalea Room 154H