



**Parks and Greenways Board  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
July 8, 2025 – 9:30 AM**

Location: Town Hall, 441 White Pine Drive, Laurel Park, NC 28739

In attendance were:

Judy Lyons, Vice Chair/Acting Chair  
Paula Bailey, board member  
Denise Layfield, board member  
Todd Plessel, board member  
Anne Waring, board member  
George Banta, Commissioner and Council Representative

Public:

Knox Crowell, resident  
Bruce Lampright, resident

Absent:

John Glover, board member  
Bryan Hensley, Park Technician  
Aaron Hollis, Zoning Administrator/Assistant to Town Manager  
Pat La Salle, Secretary – Absent and resigned effective July 8, 2025  
Board Resignation: The resignation of Pat was announced and accepted by the board. A replacement search will begin immediately.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Judy Lyons called the meeting to order at 9:32 AM on Tuesday, July 8, 2025

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Laurel Park resident and Bee Committee USA Laurel Park member Knox Crowell made public comments about the design of Canal Park as a pollinator garden and presented the board with a graphic he created depicting park boundaries and ideas for the development of the park.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved by consent of the board.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the June 2025 meeting will be presented for approval in August 2025.

## **BUDGET REPORT**

None.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- **2026 Comprehensive Plan Review**- Anne reported that progress was being made on the update of the plan. Judy said Pat indicated she will continue to work on the update. A second work session will be held Friday, July 11, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Town Hall. All members are encouraged to attend.
- **Review of bylaws/Need for revising** – The board on a motion from Denise and a second from Anne unanimously adopted the following change in its bylaws:

### **ARTICLE V MEETINGS Section 3.**

“A quorum of members shall be present in order to transact any business or take any action. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority of the appointed members. A record of members present at each meeting shall be maintained with the minutes.”

- **IPM update** – Denise reported that the bee committee will continue to consider this plan and update the board at a later time.
- **Canal Park Vegetation Removal Update** – Corey (Rhodes Excavation) has completed the work for which he was contracted and has been paid. After reviewing the property along with 4 landscape architects, Denise made the following recommendation: The board meet with permaculture expert and Laurel Park Planning Board member Luke Costlow at the site to hear his recommendations. That meeting was set for July 22, 2025, Tuesday, at 4 p.m.
- **Free tree sapling give-away** – After some discussion, the board agreed in concept to a fall give-away of tree saplings to Laurel Park residents to help restore the tree overstory in Laurel Park after the destruction of Hurricane Helene in September 2024. Denise agreed to explore pricing etc. and report back to the board with a hand-out goal of early Fall if the details prove acceptable to the board.
- **Ecusta Trail interface with Laurel Green Park** –Denise reported that the drainage ditch has been installed from the existing drainage pipe down to the catchment area near Wash Creek. Work to install a vegetative buffer along the shared border to direct pedestrians into Laurel Green Park via the bridge (rather than the stream bank) will commence in Fall.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Presentation on how to plant for pollinators** – Anne reported that she has been working to coordinate a public presentation with the purpose of education on how to plant for pollinators. She said she will report back to the board as the details emerge. The presentation is slated for August 2025 if possible.

**Site Visits Change in Schedule** – By unanimous consent, site visits will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. when they are scheduled.

**PARK TECHNICIAN'S REPORT**

None

**NATIVE PLANT SPECIES COMMITTEE REPORT**

None

**BEE COMMITTEE REPORT**

None

**BOARD AND COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

Nothing additional.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Denise moved to adjourn at 10:45 AM, seconded by Anne and unanimously approved.

**NEXT MEETINGS**

SITE VISIT:

Location – 07/22/2025, Canal Park 4:00 PM.

REGULAR MEETING:

Tuesday, August 12, 2025, Town Hall Meeting Room, 9:30 AM