



Town of Laurel Park
Parks and Greenway Board Regular Meeting Minutes
August 12, 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 Baily, board member

Denise Layfield, board member

Todd Plessel, board member

Anne Waring, Secretary

John Glover, board member

George Banta, Commissioner and Council Representative

Cara Reeves, Town Manager

Call to Order

Vice Chair Judy Lyons called the meeting to order at 9:36 am, August 12, 2025

Public Comment:

Resident Kurt Cougar spoke about the damage at Crystal Spring Park. The tree that fell has been chained sawed and debris is left to be hauled away. The stone arch was damaged by the fallen tree and will cost approximately \$6000.00 to be repaired and to remove the rootball that remains. Per Cara Reeves, a crane will be used to remove the rootball.

Approval of Agenda:

The agenda was approved by consent of the board.

Approval of the Minutes:

Minutes from July 2025 meeting were approved by consent of the board.

Old Business:

- New board member Knox Cromwell has not been approved by town council as of this date.
- Nomination and vote for Anne Waring to be secretary, was approved by the board.
- Presentation by Mark Byington on Canal Park:

Mark is a landscape architect and past board member for Conserve Carolina. He has looked at Canal Park with a focus on native plants and pollinators and easily maintained. He developed a master plan which he will provide to the board in pdf. Mark discussed establishing shade trees, keeping the lawn area defined so that it can be easily mowed. Suggested native grasses to be planted in the swell area of the park so that they do not need to be mowed. He will also provide a list of the shrubbery that was discussed.

The board discussed spending the next year getting rid of invasive plants.

Luke Costlow's plan was discussed: Put in the terraces that will help mitigate water runoff, may need to do some grading and address the gully that is developing.

- **2026 Comprehensive Plan Review:**

Parks that were damaged by Hurricane Helene will be returned to their pre-Helene condition if possible. Still waiting on funds from FEMA. It was decided to put in the town newsletter an update to Rhododendron Lake Park.

Laurel Green Park will have plants added to help lead users to the Ecusta Trail .

- **Revision of Bylaws**

The revision of the bylaws will be presented at the next town council meeting.

- **IPM Update**

Paula will attend the next meeting.

- **Tree Sapling Program**

Denise is meeting with a forester on August 13, at 3:30 pm. He will advise on what trees grow well in this area. Denise will make a list of about 10 trees to sell to residents. Plan on spending \$500 to \$1000 on saplings to sell.

- **Steve Pettis Presentation**

Provide sign- up sheet for volunteers and for interest in the tree sapling program.

- **Concepts for Canal Park – Paid help to work on Kudzu removal**

Come back to this at the next meeting.

New Business

Park Technicians Report

None

Invasive Species Committee Report

None

Bee Committee Report

Looking for new members

Board of Commissioner Comments

The town would like a list of the Parks and Greenway Committee board members.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Paula moved to adjourn at 11:06 am, seconded by Todd and unanimously approved.