



Town of Laurel Park  
Centennial Committee Minutes  
September 8, 2025, at 11:30 AM  
Town Hall – 441 White Pine Drive Laurel Park, NC 28739

**Attended**

- Crowell
- Wilson
- Drake
- O'Cain
- Curry
- Mayor O'Cain
- Town Manager Reeves
- Town Clerk Banks

**Absent**

- Anderson

**Call to order**

Chair Crowell called the meeting to at 11:36 a.m.

**Approval of the Agenda**

Motion to approve the agenda made by Drake, the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**Approval of the August 2025 Minutes**

Mr. Wilson suggested two minor corrections.

- On page 2 under "Big Band Gala," in the first paragraph, "Halloween budget constraints" should be corrected to say, "hurricane budget constraints."
- In the second paragraph, "Russ Wilson" was misspelled and should be corrected.

Motion to approve August 11, 2025, minutes with the noted corrections made by Wilson, the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**Old Business**

Discuss/Resolve "rain date" Big Band Gala, if possible and when

The committee discussed potentially scheduling a rain date for the Big Band Gala with Russ Wilson and a full orchestra. It was agreed that instead of setting a specific date at this time, the committee would reconvene to discuss this possibility in the future if needed. Members noted that budget considerations would need to be factored in, but expressed interest in making the event happen if possible.

## **New Business**

### LP Representation for virtual downtown bear auction closing October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 4PM – 6PM

Crowell inquired about Laurel Park's representation at the virtual downtown bear auction. O'Cain confirmed she would attend the auction, which is scheduled for October 25th. Wilson noted this date coincides with Trunk or Treat, but the timing would allow for participation in both events.

The online bidding for the bear will start on September 25, 2025. The by now price is \$10,000.

Crowell mentioned that Mayor O'Cain had previously suggested the Hartig's might be potential bidders. Town Manager Reeves noted that Mr. and Mrs. Hartig had donated to the town for invasive vine removal in the past, but there was no confirmation of their interest in the bear auction.

The committee discussed the possibility that if the Hartig's were the high bidders, they might donate the bear to Laurel Park. In that scenario, the committee would need to consider how to acknowledge such a donation.

Wilson informed the committee that Friends of Laurel Park would also be present at the auction as beneficiaries of the bidding. Town Manager Reeves stated we need to set a limit on what we are willing to bid based on what we have remaining in the budget. Town Manager Reeves said between \$3,500 - \$4,000.

### Placement options for the Bear if won.

The committee discussed potential placement options for the bear if acquired at the auction. One option mentioned was replacing the existing bear display, which Crowell noted was beginning to degrade due to weather exposure. Crowell's wife had offered to apply several coats of shellac to the current bear to extend the life.

The committee also considered placing a new bear in front of the Town Hall. It was noted that the current bear was borrowed and would need to be returned to the owners when it is no longer needed.

### Update, Scavenger Hunt Booklet Reprint

This item was mentioned but not discussed.

### Update, Centennial Book Reprint.

Crowell mentioned the committee would need to decide whether to order 100 or 200 books depending on the budget and financing options. Crowell also mentioned outside sales of the books at the (Museum, HCH & GS) and details.

The committee discussed the reprint of the Centennial book. Crowell mentioned that revisions were complete and submitted to the lady who does the layout, and she has already implemented them.

Crowell noted that the Henderson County Historical Association and the Museum both want copies for their shelves. The committee discussed potential pricing, with a target of around \$29 to be comparable with comparable items in the market. Crowell assumed that these organizations would have standard procedures in place for handling book sales.

The committee reviewed the budget implications, noting that two hundred books would cost approximately \$2,627. Initially suggested that while the expense would be significant initially, the books would eventually pay for themselves through sales, potentially generating profit for the town.

Motion to approve an amount not to exceed \$3,000 for two hundred copies of the Centennial book made by Drake, seconded by O'Cain. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

#### Thanksgiving and Christmas Tree-Lighting/Event, Decor, and wrap event. Dates and Scope.

The committee discussed plans for a Christmas Tree Lighting Event that would serve as a wrap-up for the Centennial celebrations. Curry reported that they were planning to keep the event simple, with light refreshment and carolers from First Congregational Church. Wilson said the carolers agreed to perform but prefer a Wednesday evening event around 5:00 PM and to be "well provisioned with cookies."

The committee tentatively set the date for December 3, 2025, with a start time of between 4:30 – 5:00 PM. Curry mentioned having carolers perform as people arrive for about 1 hour if they are willing to do that. Curry said she would talk to Mr. and Mrs. Erwin about that since Mrs. Erwin is part of the choir.

Curry is coordinating the event and indicated she would oversee the setup, including tables and linens, and would purchase refreshments from Sam's Club. She mentioned their intention to keep costs minimal. The committee allocated approximately \$200 from the budget for hot chocolate and light refreshments for the event. Curry stated Parks Technician Hensley mentioned he would look through all the lighting and decorations to make sure they were all working. He also mentioned said to consider a rooted ball tree so they could replant it.

The committee noted that the Centennial books would be available for sale at the tree lighting event.

#### Discuss the wind-down of the Centennial Committee

The committee discussed the eventual wind-down of the Centennial Committee. They noted that any remaining funds in the budget would revert to the town's general fund at the end of the fiscal year in June unless they were reallocated.

Members discussed the possibility of the committee meeting again before June 2026 to make recommendations about any remaining funds, particularly if the bear auction was unsuccessful and a significant amount remained in the budget.

The committee decided not to formally dissolve at this time, agreeing to meet on November 10, 2025, to discuss the Christmas tree lighting event and other outstanding matters.

#### **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Wilson and seconded by Drake at 12:02 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

October 13, 2025, has been canceled.

The next meeting scheduled is November 10, 2025