

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Phil Bazemore Active Adult Center
500 S. Jefferson Street
Monroe, NC 28112
Tuesday, April 15, 2025 - 6:00 PM

AGENDA

- Item 1.** **Public Input**
- Item 2.** **Approval of Minutes - February 18, 2025**
- Item 3.** **Parks and Recreation Division Updates**
- Item 4.** **Parks and Recreation Project Recap**

CITY OF MONROE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
PHIL BAZEMORE ACTIVE ADULT CENTER
500 W. JEFFERSON STREET, MONROE, NC 28112
FEBRUARY 18, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Members Present: Chairman Franco McGee, John Thomasson, and Joseph Milner

Members Absent: Debbie Dillion

Staff Present: Pete Hovanec, Alison Nichols, Aleshia Holland, Jeffrey Wells, Randy Davis, Leann Yandle, Tyson Carrier, and Terry Sholar

Visitors: Denise W. Leon and Luis Yens

Chairman McGee called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item No. 1 Public Input Chairman McGee invited any of the visitors to speak.

There were no speakers.

Item No. 2 Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2025 Mr. Thomasson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2025 meeting. Dr. Milner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: McGee, Milner, and Thomasson

NAYS: None

Item No. 3 Parks and Recreation Division Updates Mr. Davis presented divisional updates for community centers, the Bazemore Active Adult Center, and athletics and events.

- Community centers are offering special programming and events for Black History Month. Renovations, including painting and the installation of new gym floors, will begin very soon and will incorporate colors consistent with the City of Monroe thematic colors. A membership tracking system like the one used at the Bazemore will be installed at the Dickerson community center before the end of this fiscal year, and two more are in the budget for next fiscal year. Systems cost \$8100 each.
- Mr. Davis presented January participation and attendance numbers for the Bazemore Active Adult Center and reviewed upcoming special events and fundraisers. Mr. Davis noted that the Friends of the Bazemore group is a real asset to the center.

- Athletics is wrapping up winter basketball tournaments, and an end-of-season basketball bash will be hosted at Winchester Community Center. Registration is open for track, baseball, and softball. Special Events season is gearing up. The Easter Eggstravaganza will be April 12 at Parks Williams Athletic Complex. Board members and staff discussed ideas to prevent marring freshly painted walls at the community centers as well as the possibility of incorporating more “Friends Of” groups at other Parks and Recreation facilities.
- Ms. Yandle noted that membership number records are being broken at the Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center with overall numbers very close to pre-Covid numbers and January new memberships being the highest since 2010. Ms. Yandle reviewed upcoming events and classes as well as community engagement projects, including a prom dress drive and canned food drive in partnership with Heart for Monroe and Common Heart. Staff is incorporating Smart Fit equipment designed for people with Parkinson’s disease, which was donated by Monroe Rotary. Staff is making preparations for the opening of the water park in a few months. Staff and the board discussed membership increases and corporate membership benefits.

Item No. 4 Recognition Discussion Chairman McGee announced that the commission will be doing recommendations differently going forward. Names of people to be recognized should be brought to the committee, and then they will be recognized at City Council meetings.

Mr. Hovanec asked if this committee would recommend people for recognition.

Chairman McGee responded that it would remain in the same format. Departments are to recognize any community partners. Their names will be announced at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, and then they would go to City Council to be recognized.

Mr. Hovanec asked Mr. Sholar and Mr. Wells to confirm that was what was discussed at City Council so that it can be brought in front of the full council and not just the Parks and Rec Commission.

Mr. Sholar replied affirmatively.

Chairman McGee added that celebrations would be the same but are for employees.

Mr. Hovanec stated that he would like to work with division leaders to create a nomination form/process and develop an internal reward.

Item No. 5 Old Business Updates

A. Skate Park Mr. Hovanec reported that he met with Spawn skate park designer to look at the Belk Tonawanda Park site as a location for a pump track. Mr. Hovanec reviewed the area on the screen. Bocce ball courts are already in place and need to be preserved. Staff will move forward with procuring the design. Staff will request \$400,000 from City Council, which would go a long way for this project. There will need to be some improvements made with parking. Chairman McGee and Mr. Hovanec discussed the possibility of skate park grants.

B. Dickerson Disc Golf Course Dr. Milner has redesigned the disc golf course, saving Parks and Recreation time and money. The current course is outdated and neglected, and staff can reconfigure the course according to Dr. Milner’s plan. Dr. Milner discussed ways to

incorporate unutilized wooded space and pathways, adding six holes and creating a mix of open field and wooded areas, thereby elevating the quality of the course. Mr. Hovanec stated that this will be relatively inexpensive, and staff hopes to make use of community groups to help with the work. The course could be complete by spring, and this along with the pickleball courts will cause an uptick in visitors to Dickerson Community Center. Parking will need to be addressed, possibly by modifying the existing baseball field. The board and staff discussed pickleball tournaments and marketing for the updates at Dickerson.

C. Community Center Kiosks Mr. Hovanec stated that community centers will implement membership cards and check-in kiosks like the one used at Bazemore to track usage and events and provide hard numbers for analytics and accountability. This is especially important as the community centers host youth. The cost is \$8100 per facility, and the first system will be installed at Dickerson as that is the busiest center with money that is currently in this year's budget. Staff will include the money for two more systems in next year's budget.

D. Community Center Floors Mr. Hovanec reminded the group that painting will start at community centers around March 1, and the gym floor installation will follow around March 10. Staff hopes that these improvements will de-institutionalize the interiors of the centers, sparking community pride. This is the year of interior improvements, and next year will be focused on exterior improvements at the centers.

E. Flowcodes Mr. Hovanec stated that the QR codes are up at the facilities. Starting next month, staff will report QR click results at these commission meetings. Staff is trying to determine the best place to display the Flowcodes at the parks in order to protect them from the elements. These are a great tool to use in conjunction with the membership kiosks. Chairman McGee asked about embedding the codes on signs at the parks. Mr. Hovanec responded that staff is considering that and needs to do an inventory of current park signage.

Dr. Milner made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Thomasson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously with the following votes:

AYES: McGee, Milner, and Thomasson

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.



STAFF REPORT

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager
DATE: April 15, 2025
FROM: Peter Hovanec, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director
PREPARED BY: Peter Hovanec, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director
SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Division Updates

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Parks and Recreation Commission will be presented updates of plans and programs in each of the four Parks and Recreation divisions.

REVIEW

Parks and Recreation divisions include Athletics/Special Events, Community Centers, Monroe Aquatics and Fitness Center, and the Bazemore Center for Active Adults. Each of these divisions interfaces daily with the public and provides services and activities contributing to the quality of life of Monroe and Union County residents.

RECOMMENDATION

Presented for informational purposes; no action is needed at this time.

Attachment(s):



STAFF REPORT

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
VIA: Mark Watson, City Manager
DATE: April 15, 2025
FROM: Peter Hovanec, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director
PREPARED BY: Peter Hovanec, Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Director
SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Project Recap

SUMMARY STATEMENT

The Parks and Recreation Commission will be presented updates of completed and outstanding business.

REVIEW

The Parks and Recreation department has undertaken many initiatives over the last two years, including but not limited to park upgrades, the Phil Bazemore Active Adult Center, a public tree ordinance, community center upgrades, technology updates, pickleball court additions and renovations, skate park development, and changes to fee structures and department policies. These initiatives are in varying states of completion.

RECOMMENDATION

Presented for informational purposes; no action is needed at this time.

Attachment(s):