

Waynesville Parks and Recreation  
Department  
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## **ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING**

**August 21, 2023  
5:30 PM**

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### **MINUTES**

In attendance were Eva Hansen, Mark Tongen, Megan Hauser, David Hyder, Matt Diskin,  
Absent: Chad Carver, Nicole Kott, Jon Sears

Luke Kinsland, Director, staffed the meeting.

#### New Business:

- The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m.
- July minutes were unanimously approved.
- Orientation: All new members presented indicated they would be available for orientation if it was scheduled before a monthly advisory meeting.
- Directors Report:  
Dressing Rooms: Members of the community came out to express their concerns of family safety when using locker rooms and changing rooms at the recreation center along with members of the community who expressed their concerns of recent allegations spread through the community. The discussion was based mainly on the recent locker room allegations and created a debate on center policies. A public comment session was held. Some folks expressed the need for more private changing stalls. Others suggested a formal complaint policy for the recreation center. Discussion of transgender folks using bathrooms was discussed. Luke spoke at the end of the session and informed everyone that bathroom/locker room use laws are determined at the state level. State law tells local governments how to regulate bathrooms.
- Vote on Chairman: Eva expressed continued interest in remaining as chairman of the recreation advisory commission. David proposed a motion to appoint Eva as continuing chairman, seconded by Megan. The motion passed unanimously.
- Staffing: A new program supervisor has been hired with 9/1/23 as their start date. The person is experienced and has a master's degree in recreation management.
- Maintenance Update:  
A new truck is needed for maintenance and there is continued requirements to purchase electric equipment including vehicles. The concern is the insufficient strength of the electric truck and the longevity of other electric equipment.
- Storm Damage Clean up: It is progressing slowly. One partial downed tree has been cleaned up in East St Park. There is a large oak down that needs to be removed as well.
- Indoor: Part time staff is needed and being recruited. Restrooms clean up continues to be a challenge. Some maintenance staff have physical health issues that prevent them from performing some duties.
- Town Grant Manager position: Interviews are occurring currently. A new HR Director has been hired. Paige McCurry is the new HR Director.
- Budget/Revenue: Deferred to September meeting.
- PARTF: Luke explained the grant and process that is state funding for parks.
- East St Park: A community cleanup of the park is scheduled for 9/9/23. Nicole is leading this effort.
- Fundraising: Tabled until September meeting.

- Chairs comments: Luke will continue to explore opportunities to recognize Wallace, former long term advisory member.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Chair's signature *Eva Hansen*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eva Hansen, Chairman