



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

JANUARY 14, 2025

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 2 PARK PLAZA | 5:30 PM

OFFICIAL MINUTES

The public is advised that the following minutes are not a verbatim transcription of business presented at the Council Meeting of the date shown; but are a synopsis of pertinent information. The public is further advised that the video recording for said meeting is a matter of public record and is available to be viewed at the City Clerk's office during normal business hours or viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/alpharettagov>.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

• Recreation Commissioners Present

- Dennis Mitchell (Chair)
- Jit Saha (Vice Chair)
- Karla Piedrahita
- Cheryl Rand
- Brad Bowers
- Paul Slavik
- Derek Kaighin

• Recreation Commissioners Absent

- Shuntel Beach
- John Norton

• Staff

- Morgan Rodgers, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Amanda Musilli, Community Agriculture & Sustainability Services Division Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Christine Young, Recreation Services Division Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Kim Zane, Cultural Services Division Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Eric Milley, Park Services Division Manager (Northern, Southern, Eastern, Downtown Districts), Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Matt Casey, Park Services Division Manager (Western District & Equestrian), Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Sarah Bausano, Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Paul Frank, Part-time Administrative Support, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

- Led by an Eagle Scout.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

a. Election of 2025 Chair and Vice Chair

- Chairman Mitchell moved this up in the agenda to get the vote completed prior to the meeting starting.
- Chairman Mitchell called for a motion to elect the Chair for the Recreation Commission.
 - Commissioner Rand offered a motion to re-elect Chairman Mitchell as the Chair for the Recreation Commission.
 - Commissioner Piedrahita seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved (7-0).
- Chairman Mitchell called for a motion to elect the Vice Chair for the Recreation Commission.
 - Commissioner Rand offered a motion to re-elect Vice Chairman Saha as the Vice Chair for the Recreation Commission.
 - Commissioner Kaighin seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved (7-0).

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Recreation Commission Minutes from November 12, 2024

- Chairman Mitchell called for a motion.
 - Vice Chairman Saha offered a motion to approve the minutes, as presented, from November 12, 2024, Recreation Commission meeting.
 - Commissioner Rand seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved (7-0).

VI. PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION

a. Presentation from AYSA

- Shannon Gill, AYSA Commissioner and Mary Sandefur, AYSA Vice Commissioner came forward to present. (Presentation attached)

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

Q What is the Quad building? (Saha)

A Concession Stand and Restroom in the middle of the four fields. (Gill)

Q What's your annual budget? (Saha)

A Registration brings in around \$100,000 annually, we are a nonprofit. We do not currently have hard numbers, we are working on them. (Sandefur)

Q Currently, there is not a 16U program, what happened? (Rand)

A Lack of coaches and girls aging out. (Gill)

Q AED Program with Fire, that should be up to the City. (Kaighin)

A The plan is to put new ones in the City, the Fire Department decides locations. They are coming, had to work through all the issues. (Rodgers)

Q 911 service to North Park, is it worked out? (Rand)

A Yes, someone will respond to it. The call goes out and it could be Milton, Alpharetta or Forsyth that responds.

C Chris Anderson is great at North Park. (Sandefur)

VII. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

a. Approval of Meeting Schedule for the Calendar year of 2025

- Chairman Mitchell called for a motion to approve the meeting schedule with monthly work sessions.
 - Commissioner Piedrahita offered a motion to approve the meeting schedule with monthly work sessions.
 - Commissioner Kaighin seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved (7-0).
- Director Rodgers stated that we want to make the work sessions purposeful. Commissioners can provide items for the sessions as well.
- Commissioner Bowers asked who to send ideas to for the work sessions.
- Director Rodgers stated to send to Sarah, Dennis, and himself.

VIII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. DIVISIONS

i. Community Services Division Monthly Report – January 2025

- Amanda Musilli, Community Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

Monthly Highlights

- The footings for the new greenhouse at Old Rucker Farm have been poured. Estimated completion date is the week of January 27th. We are very grateful to the ABA for their generous donation of the new, 24' x 36' greenhouse, and we look forward to all the classes, events, and plants that will soon be inside the new space.
- Updates to the landscaping at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center will be coming early this spring, adding native and pollinator plants, as well as enhancing the flow and visibility of the landscaping for better enjoyment. Signs will be added to the Wills Park Recreation Center and the Adult Activity Center landscaping in early spring.

Monthly Initiatives

- The 2024 Year in Review was shared with the community and is attached here as well. Staff hosted an informative, free class on Community Agriculture Program accomplishments and goals on January 13.

- The Old Rucker Farm community garden plots are sold out for the 2025 growing season, and we currently have a wait list of seven (7) people.
- Seed starting has begun for the 2025 season, with the first plant and seed pick up starting on February 21st. The second plant and seed pick up begins April 12 and the Garden Faire plant sale takes place on April 12th as well. We are adding some small grains to the crop plan this year, including amaranth, sorghum, and wheat.
- The Community Agriculture Program is starting a baby chick hatching program for local schools who want to hatch eggs as part of a class project. We provide all the supplies and eggs to the school, and once hatched and a few weeks old, the school gives back the chicks ready to join the flock at Old Rucker Farm.
- Surveys went out to all the 2024 Growers, Grow-A-Row, and Volunteers. A compilation of all comment and feedback will be provided next month.
- The 2025 *Think Globally, Plant Locally* grant program opens for application on February 1st. Twenty-Five (25) households will be awarded the grant this year, which includes the household's garden/yard being certified as a National Wildlife Federation wildlife garden, farm staff consulting and advisement, and six native and pollinator friendly plants (grown from seed at Old Rucker Farm) to add to their garden. This is the 2nd year of this program, and it was one of the recommendations in the City Agriculture Plan.
- Another recommendation from the City Agriculture Plan was to accept SNAP at the Alpharetta Farmers Market. The ABA was approved by the USDA to a SNAP-accepting market, and we are working on the operational and communication details to ensure a smooth roll out in 2025.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

Q What is happening with parking lot and stuff at Old Rucker Farm? No progress? (Rand)

A Everything is currently on hold. (Musilli)

A Not on hold, it is part of the overall plan and we are needing to get one lump sum bid. It is not looked at as individual project.

Q One Vendor handling everything? (Bowers)

A Yes, one Construction Manager. (Rodgers)

Q Money has to be spent by the end of 2025, correct? (Rand)

A Not necessarily, not an end deadline. (Rodgers)

ii. Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – January 2025

- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

Monthly Highlights

- Fulton County Arts & Culture Donations – Alpharetta Arts Center / Ceramics Studio
- Arts & Culture Master Plan – Second Survey & Update

Monthly Initiatives

- Black History Month – Community Gallery Exhibit of Local Families, Churches, Businesses, and More

Monthly Happenings

- Arts & Culture Online Calendar
<https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/recreation-parks/cultural-services>
- Alpharetta Music City – Live Music Calendar
<https://www.awesomealpharetta.com/calendar/category/alpharetta-music-city-live-music/>
- Art of the Elements Exhibit / Alpharetta Arts Center Gallery / Through January 25 / FREE
- Order and Chaos Exhibit / Alpharetta Arts Center Gallery / Show Opens Jan 29 / Reception on Feb 22 at 5pm / FREE
- Behind the Scenes at the Greatest Quilt Museum in the World Virtually Explore presented by the Chattahoochee Evening Stars Quilt Guild / Alpharetta Adult Activity Center / Feb 3 at 6pm / FREE
- Shiloh Rules presented by ACT 1 Community Theater / Alpharetta Arts Center Black Box / Fri & Sat on Feb 7-16 at 7:30 PM and Sun at 2 PM / Tickets: <https://act1theater.org/>
- Love and Light presented by the Alpharetta Symphony / Feb 21 at 6:30pm Pre-Talk and 7:30 PM Concert / Tickets: <https://www.alpharettasympphony.org/love-and-light>
- Love and Light Exhibit presented through inspiration from the Alpharetta Symphony / Alpharetta Arts Center Studio Gallery / Jan 25 – March 28 / FREE

iii. Recreation Services Division Monthly Report – January 2025

- Christine Young, Recreation Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

Monthly Highlights:

- Season of Celebration
 - Christmas Tree Lighting: Very successful and fun event that accomplished the "Hometown" feel of the holidays; significant increase in attendance.
 - Hop N Shop: Four successful shopping experiences and the City provided shuttles to shoppers. The weather was great this year, therefore participation increased.
 - NFCC Donations 411: Families assisted: 117; total number of people assisted: 4,397.

- AAAC online registration: Day trip registration has been moved to 100% online registration.

Monthly Initiatives:

AYSA Annual Presentation: Shannon Gill, AYSA Commissioner

Monthly Happenings:

- Winter Class Session began December 2nd.
- Summer Guide 2025: Guide will be online the last week of January, hard copies at facilities the following week. Summer registration begins at 8:00 a.m. February 26 for residents and March 12th for Non-residents.
- Youth Basketball: 38 teams, playoffs early February
- YAA Spring registration is open for Ambush, AYSA, AYBA, and Phoenix Rugby

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

Q High School Basketball league, what happened to it? (Rand)

A Fell apart after COVID. (Young)

Q Open gym, is it being utilized? (Saha)

A Yes, they show up and they play. (Young)

iv. Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part I) – January 2025

- Eric Milley, Park Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

Monthly Highlights

- We have replaced the 8-foot outfield fencing with 6-foot outfield fencing and installing/adding 16-foot netting on the neighborhood side of field 2 at Innovation Sports Complex. We were able to recycle the netting from the upper field of Webb Bridge which Ambush did fund 50% of the cost of the relocation. The netting install was delayed slightly due to having to remove a sizable Water Oak on the property line which the property owner also funded 50% of the cost of the removal.
- We continue to clean/clear field wood lines and raise tree canopy at Innovation Sports Complex to open practice areas and prevent field of play encroachment.
- Webb Bridge build a retaining wall and added rock to prevent the pond bank from eroding along the walking trail. They are also clearing underbrush along the pond bank to open all areas around the pond for aesthetics.
- We are getting ready to mulch and straw City Center, Brooke Street Park, Main Street Park, and Haynes Bridge medians.

- We are continuing to open areas by clearing underbrush all along the Greenway trail for aesthetics and sight lines.

Monthly Initiatives

- Continuing to develop new maintenance plans/practices in all parks and on all trail systems.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

Q Did you hear AYSA's comment regarding the Quad building and balls hitting people? Are we at risk? (Rand)

A Backstops typically help. We also have netting. My advice is to pay attention. (Milley)

A All of our fields meet and/or exceed industry standards. (Rodgers)

Q Are you concerned about the drainage at North Park? (Rand)

A We are working on turf planning and correcting the issues. (Milley)

Q You brought up underbrush, is there a possibility of bringing back the goats? (Saha)

A No, no plans to bring back the goats. (Milley)

v. Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part II) – January 2025

- Matt Casey, Park Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

Monthly Highlights

- Staff has been busy with winter maintenance. Baseball fields have been edged and will be in great shape moving into the spring season.
- Staff has removed under story trees and brush along the walking trail to open up the canopy. Also drains were added to divert water away from the walking trail.
- The Equestrian Center has been preparing for the upcoming show season. They have reconfigured some areas around the barns to better accommodate exhibitors. The drainage to Arenas 1 and 3 was repaired to allow more water flow as needed.

Monthly Initiatives

- Focus on common areas, keeping trails passible, and continuing winter operations.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

Q Wacky World, is there an urgency with the playground and its safety? (Piedrahita)

A Staff goes through daily to keep it safe. (Casey)

A It is a concern. It has been inspected as well as all our other playgrounds. Nothing major was wrong and the items were repaired. (Rodgers)

vi. **Senior Operations Manager Monthly Report – January 2025**

- Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department was not present. Director Rodgers came forward to two items per Kurt's request.
- Kurt wanted to thank and congratulate the staff on a great holiday season.
- Kurt also wanted mention of the 2 storms that have come through. The essential staff kept things going. One tree did fall during Hurricane Helene causing issues on the greenway. The best way to fix this is to install Gabian Baskets to help in the future. There are currently some of these along the greenway and they help tremendously.

b. **DIRECTOR**

i. **Director's Report – January 2025**

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to speak.
- Director Rodgers passed around a picture of the potential playground on his iPad, due to technical difficulties with the podium.
- Director Rodgers stated that the City Council Retreat is being held this weekend, January 17th, and January 18th at Barnsley Gardens. The Recreation items on the agenda are the Bond Referendum and Alcohol in the Parks.
- Director Rodgers gave an update on the NAFL. He stated that the reason behind the City not renewing with NAFL is due to NAFL not being in compliance with the agreement. The numbers were off for residency requirements.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

Q I requested this because of social media. Is the City planning to address this? (Saha)

A Yes, there are several meeting happening this week and next week. (Rodgers)

Q Did they say they were splitting between North Park and Bell Memorial Park? (Rand)

A Majority of the practices take place at North Park, our fields keep bringing them back. Flag football is out of Bell Memorial Park, primarily, it is a Milton Program. Alpharetta has the tackle football program and the cheer program. (Rodgers)

Q How many members on the board? (Saha)

A 7 or 9, that is the biggest sticky point. (Rodgers)

Q What are the alcohol issues? (Rand)

A Currently, alcohol can be brought in at the Equestrian Center (cannot be sold), Mansell House, and Union Hill. Town Green and Brooke Street Park has to be purchased from a downtown restaurant, it can not be brought in from home or elsewhere. (Rodgers)

Q Is this a City or State ordinance? (Saha)

A It is a City ordinance. (Rodgers)

Q The residency numbers that the AYSA brought forward, are those correct? (Rand)

A Need to verify them. (Rodgers)

Q What is the timeline for the Webb Bridge Park turf? (Piedrahita)

A End of February. (Rodgers)

IX. RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- Chairman Mitchell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Commissioner Rand made a motion to adjourn.
 - Vice Chairman Saha seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).
- With there being no further business to consider or discuss, Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Bausano

Sarah Bausano

Administrative Office Coordinator

Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services