



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 11, 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 5:31 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

• Recreation Commissioners Present

- Dennis Mitchell (Chair)
- Jit Saha (Vice Chair)
- Karla Piedrahita
- Cheryl Rand
- Brad Bowers
- Paul Slavik
- Shuntel Beach
- John Norton

• Recreation Commissioners Absent

- Derek Kaighin

• Staff

- Morgan Rodgers, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager, 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
- Matt Casey, Park Services Division Manager (Western District & Equestrian), Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Sarah Bausano, Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Recreation Commission Minutes from January 14, 2025

- Chairman Mitchell called for a motion.
 - Commissioner Rand offered a motion to approve the minutes, as presented, from January 14, 2025, Recreation Commission meeting.
 - Vice Chair Saha seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved (7-0).

b. Recreation Commission Work Session Minutes from January 29, 2025

- Chairman Mitchell called for a motion.
 - Commissioner Rand offered a motion to approve the minutes, as presented, from January 29, 2025, Recreation Commission meeting.
 - Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved (7-0).

V. NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

a. Field Pavilion Rental Fees Increase

- Christine Young presented this item. During the Recreation Commission Work Session the discussion was had to increase the rental fees and admission fess for the following: fields, pavilions, swimming pool, and pickleball/tennis courts.
- Christine went over the increases.
- Vice Chair Saha questioned when the increases would go into effect and Christine stated immediately.
- Chairman Mitchell called for a motion to approve the increase of the rental and admission fees for the fields, pavilions, swimming pool, and pickleball/tennis courts.
 - Commissioner Norton offered a motion to approve the increase of the rental and admission fees for the fields, pavilions, swimming pool, and pickleball/tennis courts.
 - Commissioner Piedrahita seconded the motion.
- The motion was approved (7-0).

VI. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. DIVISIONS

i. Community Agriculture & Sustainability Services Division Monthly Report – February 2025

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

Monthly Highlights

- As of February 5, 2025, the greenhouse construction is still in progress. Delays were due to wrong parts being included in the shipment. The correct parts were delivered, and construction has been able to continue.
- The School Garden Support program was announced and garnered lots of interest from local schools. The maximum number of schools for the 2025-2026 school year will be five (5).

Monthly Initiatives

- The first plant and seed pick up for 2025 runs from February 21st through the 28th. The second plant and seed pick up runs from April 12th through the 20th. The Garden Faire plant sale takes place on April 12th in Wills Park.
- Volunteer surveys went out to all the 2024 volunteers. A compilation of all comments is attached for your review.
- The 2025 *Think Globally, Plant Locally* grant program opened for application on February 1st. Twenty-Five (25) households will be awarded the grant this year and as of February 6th we have eight (8) households signed up for the program. This program involves resident's household gardens/yards 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.
- As reported last month, SNAP will be accepted at the Alpharetta Farmers Market this year. The press release and FAQ are attached for your review.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

Q Where will Garden Faire take place? (Beach)

A The Grove at Wills Park. (Musilli)

Q Are the same people coming back for Garden Faire? (Rand)

A Yes, they are. (Musilli)

Q What is the Pollinator Garden criteria? (Piedrahita)

A The guidelines are on the City website. (Musilli)

ii. Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – February

- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department was not in attendance.

Monthly Highlights

- The Arts & Culture Master Plan Draft and Cultural Arts Commission Work Session
- NEW - Arts & Culture Guide Spring-Summer

Monthly Initiatives

- Alpha Loop - Potential Public Art Locations
- Black History Month - Community Gallery Exhibit & Programs

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/>
- Order and Chaos Exhibit / Alpharetta Arts Center Gallery / Show Opens Jan 29 / Reception on Feb 22 at 5pm / 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/>
- Shelton Powe Live Music Match Show / Jack's Feed Store / Sat, Feb 15 at 8:30pm
- 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>
- Alpharetta Symphony Youth Orchestra Concert / Innovation Academy/ March 9 at 5:30pm / For more information visit: alpharettasympphony.org/asyo
- Love and Light Exhibit presented through inspiration from the Alpharetta Symphony / Alpharetta Arts Center Studio Gallery / Jan 25 – March 28 / FREE
- A Little Princess presented by ACT1 Theater / Alpharetta Arts Center Black Box / March 14-30 Fridays & Saturdays at 7:30pm and Sunday at 2pm / To purchase tickets visit: <https://act1theater.org/little-princess>
- All About Pastels Gallery Exhibit Presented by The Southeaster Pastel Society/ Alpharetta Arts Center / March 26 / For more information: <https://southeasternpastel.com/>

iii. Recreation Services Division Monthly Report – February 2025

- Christine Young, Recreation Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item. Christine started her presentation with a slide show of photos from the Family Dance.

Monthly Highlights

- Family Dance: Rolling on the River
- The CONNECT

Monthly Happenings

- Summer Hiring: Pool Cashier, Counselors for all camps, lifeguards
- Summer Day Camp
 - Wills Park Day Camp ages 6-9
 - Level Up Day Camp ages 9.5-11
 - Extreme Day Camp ages 12-14
- NEW Teen Summer Programming ages 13-15
- New summer offerings
 - Golf Camp ages 3-12
 - Pickleball & Pool Camp ages 8-14
 - Sports Play- Kidokinetics ages 3-5

- Chess Camp ages 6-12
- Summer Daily Chill July 28-Aug 1, ages 6-11
- H & W: Link to all-things Health & Wellness: <https://arcg.is/10Dyqr>

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

- Q Morgan, did you have fun at the Family Dance? (Young)
- A It was a special night; you did not feel like you were walking into a Community Center. (Rodgers)
- C Huge thank you for the Family Dance. All the details were elevated. The music was amazing, the food, the team, the smiles, created a lifetime of memories for our community. (Piedrahita)
- Q What is the age to work as a camp counselor? (Piedrahita)
- A 16 by the first day that they work. (Young)
- C Shout out to the Special Events team for all the hard work that goes into planning everything that happens in Alpharetta. (Young)
- C Thank you to the City for partnering with Rotary for the Polar Plunge, it was a huge success. (Slavik)

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

- Eric Milley, Park Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department was not in attendance.

Monthly Highlights

- We are inspecting and replacing lights on all athletic fields and courts getting ready for the spring season to begin.
- We are currently training a new hire, Crew Leader Donald Stroud out at Rock Mill/Greenway trail. Donald is the Crew Leader replacement for Carlo Maignan who served the City for 26 years and has retired.
- We continue our winter program of pruning and cutting back underbrush in all parks and on all trails.
- We are getting ready to replace the field fencing out at North Park fields 5 and 6.
- We are replacing several broken and uneven concrete panels out at the North Park Miracle League Field.
- All North Park softball fields are scheduled to be turf planed and leveled for better drainage and bad ball hops.
- The Greenway washout close to Webb Bridge Road is almost complete. The washout has been repaired, but they will be adding a safety barrier.

Monthly Initiatives

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

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

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

Monthly Highlights

- Staff has continued its winter operations. We had a couple of pipes that had to be repaired due to freezing temperatures. Overall, the grounds have held up very well to date.
- Field 5 drainage pipe is being replaced due to deterioration. Public Works is heading up this repair of 300 feet of pipe. This infrastructure was greatly needed moving into the future.
- Opening day for Baseball will be on March 1st at Wills Park.
- Staff has continued to remove privet bordering the trail and common areas.
- Equestrian Center is about to come into its busy show season. Aggregate and arena sand have been added as needed.

Monthly Initiatives

- Focus on common areas, keeping trails passible, and focus on upcoming Spring season.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

Q Is there going to be an opening ceremony for baseball? (Norton)

A Yes, we will have one. (Casey)

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

- Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present.
- Kurt updated the Commission on the Greenway washout and the job completion.
- Kurt also updated the Commission on the Webb Bridge turf being about 90% complete and ahead of schedule. The crew is hoping to have the project completed by the end of February.
- Kurt stated that the Mayfield property is waiting on funding to do something with property. The demolition of the structures is waiting to go to Mayor and Council for approval.
- Kurt did a few shout outs:
 - The Community Center Staff for the best dance ever.
 - Kim Zane and Daniel Dominique for the completing of the Spotlight Stage at the Mall. That process brought a lot of challenges and they stayed with it.
 - Geoffrey Sarra, he is amazing! He has worked with us on the bond projects, he has been so patient with us. Him and Pete have been great.
 - Nate Hand and team at Webb Bridge Park, they are doing a great job. They were selected as Park of the Year at the Department Holiday Luncheon.
 - Kim and Staff were selected as Program of the Year at the Holiday Luncheon.
 - Carlo Maignan on his retirement, he was a great friend and coworker. He will be missed.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

Q How long did the turf itself take at Webb Bridge Park? (Rand)

A Approximately 3 months. (Kirby)

b. DIRECTOR

i. Director's Report – February 2025

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to speak.
- Director Rodgers mentioned that the City filled Carlo's position with a gentleman named Donald Stroud.
- Director Rodgers stated that the Spotlight Stage at the Mall was not completed, but the construction phase is finished. Lighting needs to be added, as well as sound. This is a 150 seat place that the community can perform. There are plans for kid and adult programs.
- Director Rodgers gave an updated of all the things going to Council.
- Director Rodgers stated that the Encore Gateway project is set to break ground on February 20th.
- Director Rodgers stated that City Council decided to leave North Point Parkway six lanes, they have moved that funding to the Alpha Link to add about another mile to the current mile and a half loop of the Alpha Loop.

Upcoming City Council Items

- Community Development Block Grant Contract for the improvements at the Adult Activity Center parking lot.
- Cultural Arts Master Plan
- Mayfield Road Demolition
- Johns Creek MOU
- Home By Dark MOU
- Wayfinding Signage

Items currently in Progress

- The Bond Projects RFQ is currently out and due back at the beginning of March, this includes Union Hill Park, Old Rucker Farm, and Wills Park.
- The Equestrian Center footing RFP is currently out and due back at the end of February.
- The football RFP is currently out and due back the end of February.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

Q Where on the Alpha Loop? (Rand)

A It is between a development and 400. (Rodgers)

Q How do you get there? (Rand)

A The developer built a big sidewalk to access it. There will be very little tree removal (Rodgers)

VII. RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Paul Slavik announced that he is stepping off the Commission due to moving to Johns Creek.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- Chairman Mitchell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- Commissioner Rand made a motion to adjourn.
 - Commissioner Norton 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 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Bausano

Sarah Bausano

Administrative Office Coordinator

Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services