



TUSCALOOSA COUNTY PARK & RECREATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Mary Ann Phelps Activity Center

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 4:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Elizabeth Winter, Brion Hardin, Dr. Craig Fairburn, Dr. Tony Johnson, Curtis Travis (*absent*), Gary Falls, Hunter Taylor (*remote*), and Peggy Hogue

PARA STAFF PRESENT: Chief Executive Officer Brian Davis, Amy Rainey, Heather Shiplety, Jay Logan, John Gray, Mark Harrison, Mike Crady, and Sandra Wolfe

PROCEEDINGS

- Mrs. Winter called the meeting to order.
- April 2025, approval of minutes.
**Motioned by Dr. Tony Johnson and seconded by Mrs. Peggy Hogue, the Board unanimously approved the April Minutes.*

VISITORS/GUESTS

- Introduction of PARA's new legal counsel, Mr. Blake Madison, Rosen Harwood

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

Chief Executive Officer

Reported by Brian Davis

- Fitness Equipment/Open House
New fitness equipment has been successfully installed at the Mary Ann Phelps and Faucett Brothers Activity Centers. Installation at the Bobby Miller Activity Center is scheduled for May 15. To promote the new equipment and encourage community engagement, the Phelps Activity Center will host an Open House on May 15, while the Faucett Brothers Activity Center will hold its Open House on May 8.
- Jerry Pate Soft Opening
PARA is planning a soft opening for the Jerry Pate Facility on June 1. Pending Board approval, the facility will house Tuscaloosa's first and only golf simulators, with plans to open four simulator bays. John Gray, Director of Golf at the Ol' Colony Golf Complex, has successfully sold 28 annual passes in advance of the opening.
- Park Operations Projects
A number of park improvement projects are currently underway. A new sidewalk is being poured at the Lucca monument located in Veterans Memorial Park. The access road at Hurricane Creek Park has been repaired, and road scraping at Van de Graaff Park is scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.
- Budget Requests
Brian and Mike have requested that all PARA staff submit their internal budget requests by Friday, May 9. This timeline will allow for preparing and submitting formal budget requests to the City of Tuscaloosa and Tuscaloosa County by June.
- Brian's May Schedule
Brian informed the Board of Directors that he will be out of the office from May 14 through May 29 as he celebrates his 30th wedding anniversary with a two-week cruise alongside his wife. During his absence, Amy Rainey will oversee day-to-day operations, and Mike Crady will address any monetary-related questions or needs.

- Coach Safely Act
Tuscaloosa ranks second in Alabama, trailing only the City of Enterprise, in compliance with the Coach Safely Act. This act mandates that all volunteer and unpaid coaches of youth athletes aged 14 and under complete annual injury recognition and prevention training. This training encompasses topics such as emergency preparedness, concussion awareness, heat-related illnesses, and sudden cardiac arrest, aiming to enhance the safety of youth sports participants.
- Grapes on the Green
The second annual—and highly anticipated—Grapes on the Green event is scheduled for June 24. Ticket sales for the VIP experience opened on Thursday, May 1, at \$200 per couple. Once VIP tickets are sold out, PARA will release a limited number of non-VIP experience tickets. The non-VIP option will allow attendees to enjoy food from on-site food trucks and live music entertainment; however, it does not include access to a golf cart or participation in the nine-hole food and wine pairing experience.

Financial Report

Reported by Mike Crady

- March was a positive month for PARA, with net activity totaling \$133,053.67 and bringing the year-to-date total to \$299,843.29. At the halfway point of FY2025, overall revenues have increased by approximately \$79,000, with gains in appropriations and PARA-sourced programs such as memberships, basketball, recreational travel, and athletic tournaments. Total expenses are up approximately 2% due to increased personnel, equipment, maintenance, and insurance costs. PARA has reduced part-time labor hours by over 4,600 year-to-date and expects summer programs and golf operations to help offset increased seasonal expenses.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Ol' Colony Advisory Committee
Dr. Tony Johnson addressed the agenda item regarding the Indoor Golf Simulator Bid under New Business and informed the Board of Directors that the Ol' Colony Advisory Committee fully supports the installation of the simulators at the Jerry Pate Facility.

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS

- Indoor Golf Simulators Bid
PARA invited bids (#05-25) to procure and install indoor golf simulators at the Ol' Colony Golf Complex on March 25, 2025. Only one bid was received and submitted by Golf Zone for \$334,039.80. The bid includes purchasing and installing four indoor golf simulators at the facility. Should the Board of Directors choose to proceed, it was noted that \$20,000 will be due before installation. Additionally, PARA has secured \$33,000 in funding through an Innovate Alabama grant to support this project and anticipates generating \$60,000 through annual pass sales at the Jerry Pate Facility.
**On a motion by Dr. Tony Johnson, seconded by Dr. Craig Fairburn, the PARA Board of Directors approved the bid of Golf Zone for \$334,039.80.*
- June through September 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Location
Due to the Mary Ann Phelps Activity Center being unavailable for Board of Directors meetings, the PARA Board of Directors will move its monthly meetings to the Jerry Pate Facility at Ol' Colony Golf Complex.
**On a motion by Dr. Tony Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Peggy Hogue, the PARA Board of Directors unanimously approved moving its monthly board meetings to the Jerry Pate Facility effective June 3, 2025.*

- Hurricane Creek Park Permanent Security

Vice Chair Gary Falls reported that he had been contacted by Mr. John Wathen, also known as the Creekkeeper, regarding concerns about the need for a permanent security presence at Hurricane Creek Park. Mr. Wathen also expressed frustration that PARA had not taken action to remove graffiti from the rock formations within the park.

In response, Brian Davis informed the Board and Vice Chair Falls that PARA remains committed to addressing graffiti. As documented in the April 1 Board Meeting Minutes, a “work day” focused on graffiti removal has already taken place, and a second “work day” has been scheduled to continue these efforts.

While the Board of Directors acknowledged Mr. Wathen’s concerns, they ultimately determined that PARA does not currently have the funding or resources to support a permanent security detail at Hurricane Creek Park.

At 4:44 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Brion Hardin, seconded by Dr. Tony Johnson, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Winter, *Board Chair*

Brian Davis, *Chief Executive Officer*