



TUSCALOOSA COUNTY PARK & RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Jerry Pate Facility

Tuesday, August 5, 2025, 4:00 pm

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

PARA STAFF PRESENT: Chief Executive Officer Brian Davis, Adrian Cleckler, Christo Sullivan, Jay Logan, Jennifer LeGrone, John Gray, Mark Harrison, and Mike Crady

PROCEEDINGS

- Mrs. Winter called the meeting to order.
- July 2025 approval of minutes.
**Motioned by Mrs. Peggy Hogue and seconded by Mr. Gary Falls, the Board unanimously approved the July 2025 Minutes.*

VISITORS/GUESTS

- Lisa Young, President, Tuscaloosa County Branch NAACP
Lisa Young, President of the Tuscaloosa County NAACP Branch, attended the August Board Meeting to share her appreciation for the ongoing partnership between the NAACP and PARA. She spoke specifically about the annual Juneteenth celebration held at PARA's Palmore Park, which the NAACP hosts. Lisa emphasized that the event aims to foster inclusiveness and cultural understanding within the community. She also thanked PARA and the Board for helping keep the celebration free and accessible.
- Dr. Richard Rush, Government Relations, External Affairs, & Crisis Communications, City of Tuscaloosa
Dr. Richard Rush, who leads Government Relations, External Affairs, and Crisis Communication for the City of Tuscaloosa, attended the August Board Meeting to introduce himself to the PARA Board. He shared that he will be the primary point of contact for agencies like PARA moving forward.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

Chief Executive Officer

Reported by Brian Davis

- Swim to the Top Showcase
This year's Swim to the Top program concluded with a final showcase on July 10 at the Barnes YMCA. We were thrilled to serve 130 children, and for the first time, the program included adult swim lessons—an exciting step toward making it more inclusive. PARA supported this initiative alongside the YMCA and the University of Alabama.
- After-School Tutoring at Bobby Miller
We're partnering with a University of Alabama student group, Al's Pals, to launch a tutoring and mentorship program at the Bobby Miller Center. The focus is on creating a consistent, supportive space for academic help. We're targeting a September launch and are working closely with school contacts and student leaders to build a sustainable, long-term model.

- Flag Football Growth
PARA's NFL Co-Ed Flag Football League continues to grow in popularity, with substantial participation numbers. At the same time, our Girls' Flag Football program wrapped up its summer clinics and is preparing for its first full season this fall—an exciting milestone for our athletics team and the community.
- Partnership with Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)
We're in the early stages of building a partnership with FCA to offer added support for coaches, players, and families. This could include mentorship for coaches and expanded opportunities for youth officials, strengthening the character and leadership development aspects of our programs.
- Tackle Football Participation
Tackle football registration remained low, reflecting a national trend. However, we've been intentional about redirecting participants into other programs like flag football to keep youth involved and engaged in team sports.
- Park Maintenance Reorganization
Our park maintenance teams have been reorganized to improve efficiency and collaboration. Supervisors are now prioritizing cross-training so staff can work effectively across different areas. This adjustment is already helping us better meet the needs of our facilities and parks system.
- Faucett Brothers Activity Center: Top 5 Nominee!
We're proud to announce that Faucett Brothers Activity Center has been named a Top 5 finalist for Best Fitness Center/Gym in the 2024 Tuscaloosa County Community's Choice Awards! This is a huge testament to our team and the community we serve. Voting runs August 13–27, and we'll encourage everyone—staff, members, and the public—to vote daily.
- Iron & Ember Tentative Grand Opening
We're thrilled to share that the tentative grand opening date for Iron & Ember Golf is September 23, 2025. PARA has transformed the former University of Alabama Jerry Pate Practice Facility at the Ol' Colony Golf Complex into an innovative indoor golf destination. The new venue features four state-of-the-art Golfzon simulator bays. Beyond simulators, the facility includes a private boardroom-style meeting space, an upgraded VIP range, a short-game practice area, a family-friendly lounge space, and outdoor fire-pit seating. The concept behind the facility is captured in the tagline "Forge Your Game"—a nod to precision, growth, and community.

Financial Report

Reported by Mike Crady

- June was a strong financial month for PARA, closing with a net operating surplus of \$303,311 and bringing the year-to-date net position to \$810,304. Revenues for the month totaled \$1.62 million, with year-to-date receipts reaching \$12.04 million—up 2% compared to last year. Expenses for June were \$1.31 million, with year-to-date disbursements at \$11.23 million. Appropriations remained the most significant funding source at \$675,827 for June and \$6.23 million year-to-date. Program revenues continued trending upward, led by Athletics & Programming (up 31%), Aquatics (up 18%), and consistent revenue from Ol' Colony, which generated over \$307,000 in June. The Tennis Center's revised pricing structure helped court fee revenues surpass \$25,000 YTD, up from \$9,800 last year. Membership revenues slightly declined by \$5,000, but were offset by the \$16,000 increase in court fees. Cash balances as of June 30 included \$3,458,337.23 in unrestricted funds, with positive gains in restricted Beer Tax and Veterans Park funds. Operational spending remains aligned with expectations, and PARA has benefited financially from ongoing full-time vacancies, generating \$56,035.86 in projected salary savings YTD and over \$40,000 in part-time labor savings. Overall, PARA maintains a strong financial position heading into the final months of the fiscal year.
- Mike presented the Board with the 2024 Audit Report, a clean report with no findings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Ol' Colony Advisory Committee

The committee met last week and requested that John and Christo create a plan for the cost of deploying robotic mowers for the course. While the advisory committee has not yet taken action, Dr. Johnson wanted to inform the Board that they will shortly have a proposal for review and vote.

- Facilities Committee

- The City of Northport has requested to temporarily use a portion of PARA's property at Van de Graaff Park to construct a roundabout near the park. The City has assured that any area impacted during construction will be restored to its original condition.
**On a motion by Mr. Hunter Taylor, seconded by Mr. Brion Hardin, the Board unanimously approved the request, stipulating that the site be returned to its original state upon project completion.*
- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has identified trees in the Northwest corner (+/-12 acres) of Van de Graaff Park that must be removed to meet airport clearance requirements for the Tuscaloosa Airport. While the Board does not have the authority to deny this request, it expressed interest in coordinating with Westervelt to handle the tree removal, allowing PARA to retain any potential profits from the harvested timber.
- Residents near the Bobby Miller Activity Center have raised concerns about overgrown trees on the property. In response, PARA plans to contact Westervelt to explore options for removing and maintaining the affected trees.

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS

- Rental Hours

Brian informed the Board that PARA rentals have historically extended past midnight; however, after consulting with local law enforcement and PARA staff, a recommendation was made to end all rentals by 11:00 p.m. Moving the cutoff time earlier is intended to improve safety and manage staff scheduling and resources.

**On a motion by Mrs. Peggy Hogue, seconded by Mr. Gary Falls, the Board unanimously approved changing PARAs' rental hours to 11:00 p.m.*

- Remote Attendance Policy

Blake Madison, PARA's attorney, presented a revised Electronic Meetings Policy and draft resolution to align with § 36-25A-5.2 of the Code of Alabama. The update allows Board members to participate electronically due to illness, provided a physical quorum is present. The policy outlines communication, public access, and voting procedures, and must be adopted at least 45 days before its first use.

**The PARA Board tabled the remote attendance policy until its September 9 meeting.*

- Surplus Items

Adrian Cleckler, COO, presented a list of items recommended for surplus auction. The list includes eight pieces of equipment: a 2420 TurfTime Turf Spreader, two caged water/fertilizer tanks, a water tank attachment, an Abbriata M50 Straw Baler, a circular disc, a box blade, a Ty-Crop Twin Spinner, and a chemical mixing sprayer.

**On a motion by Mr. Hunter Taylor, seconded by Mr. Brion Hardin, the Board unanimously approved the surplus items.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Chair Mrs. Elizabeth Winter requested that the Board move into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. It was stated that the session would last approximately 30 minutes.

**At 4:43 p.m., Mrs. Elizabeth Winter adjourned the meeting into Executive Session. Mrs. Winters conducted a roll call, and all members present voted in favor.*

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION AND ADJOURNMENT

**At 5:11 p.m., a motion to end the Executive Session was made by Mr. Hunter Taylor and seconded by Mr. Brion Hardin. Following the close of the Executive Session, Mr. Hunter Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brion Hardin seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.*

Elizabeth Winter, Board Chair

Brian Davis, Chief Executive Officer