



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

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 4:00 pm

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

PARA STAFF PRESENT: Chief Executive Officer Brian Davis, Adrian Cleckler, Amy Rainey, Barry Spitzer, Christo Sullivan, Heather Shipley, Jay Logan, Jennifer LeGrone, John Gray, Mark Harrison, Mike Crady, Mike Goldammer, Sandra Wolfe, and Steve Sturdivant

PROCEEDINGS

- Mrs. Winter called the meeting to order.
- August 2025 approval of minutes.
**Motioned by Dr. Tony Johnson, seconded by Mr. Hunter Taylor, the Board unanimously approved the August 2025 Minutes.*

VISITORS/GUESTS

- Dr. Richard Rush, Government Relations, External Affairs, & Crisis Communications, City of Tuscaloosa
- Christian LeBlanc & Chad Berry, Tuscaloosa Disc Golf Club

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

Chief Executive Officer

Reported by Brian Davis

- Remembering Mary Ann Phelps
It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Mary Ann Phelps on August 15, 2025. Mary Ann served PARA faithfully for nearly three decades, including as Chairman of the PARA Board of Directors and the PARA Foundation. Her leadership and dedication left a lasting mark on our community, and PARA's decision in 2002 to name the Mary Ann Phelps Activity Center in her honor stands as a testament to her impact. In the days since her passing, friends and colleagues have honored her legacy with gifts totaling over \$1,600 to Mason's Place All-Inclusive Playground, ensuring her commitment to inclusion and community will continue to touch lives for years to come.
- Gary Nicols, Civic Hall of Fame
We are pleased to share that Walter Gary Nichols, who serves on PARA's Facilities Committee, has been inducted into the Tuscaloosa County Civic Hall of Fame. This prestigious recognition honors Gary's lifetime of service and commitment to our community, and it is especially meaningful for PARA as he continues to contribute his leadership and guidance to our organization. His induction highlights his personal accomplishments and reflects the caliber of individuals who support PARA's mission, reinforcing the importance of the work we do together as a Board to positively impact Tuscaloosa County.



- Recreation Management Magazine Article
We are pleased to inform you that Recreation Management Magazine, a national publication for parks and recreation professionals, will feature the new dog wash station at Will May Dog Park in an upcoming article. The story will highlight how PARA continues to enhance the park experience for pets and their owners, noting the convenience, innovation, and community support behind this project. The article will also spotlight the generosity of the Tuscaloosa Association of Realtors, whose 2024 Bark in the Park fundraiser contributed more than \$27,000 to make the installation possible.
- Two for the Trails Grant
The PARA Foundation has submitted an application to Athletic Brewing Company's Two for the Trails Grant program on behalf of PARA. We request \$15,250 to fund the Sokol Park – Large Erosion & Crater Repair project. This project will redirect stormwater runoff, stabilize a primary erosion site, and protect a 200+ year-old oak tree along the Sokol Park Main Trail. If funded, PARA will partner with CivilWorx Construction, LLC, and leverage in-kind support from PARA staff and the West Alabama Mountain Bikers Association to complete the work in 2026.
- ADECA Grant
We are pleased to announce that the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA), utilizing the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), has awarded the Tuscaloosa County Park and Recreation Authority (PARA) a \$50,000 grant for enhanced lighting and electrical system upgrades in the parking areas of Munny Sokol Park. PARA has pledged the required \$50,000 in matching funds, enabling the project to progress.
**On a motion by Mrs. Peggy Hogue, seconded by Mr. Hunter Taylor, to approve the acceptance of the ADECA Land and Water Conservation Fund \$50,000 grant award for enhanced lighting and electrical upgrades in the Munny Sokol Park parking areas. Mr. Curtis Travis abstained. The motion carried, and the Board approved accepting the ADECA LWCF grant award.*

Financial Report

Reported by Mike Crady

- July produced a positive net activity of \$218,742.07, bringing PARA's year-to-date operating net position (excluding capital) to \$970,008.66, or \$417,124.08 including capital expenses. As of July 31, 2025, unrestricted cash totaled \$4,015,550.03, restricted Beer Tax funds were \$127,846.70, and restricted Veterans Park funds were \$907,002.13. Revenues are at 85% of the budget, and expenses are at 79%, positioning PARA for a strong fiscal year-end. Revenue increases were seen in programming, appropriations, aquatics, athletic field rentals, interest earnings, and insurance claims. Activity center revenues rose modestly overall, though McDonald Hughes and Jerry Tingle centers experienced declines. Golf revenues remain slightly down due to the loss of UA lease revenue, though partially offset by new revenue from the Jerry Pate Facility. Despite five payrolls remaining, PARA anticipates ending the year with a budget surplus and positive cash flows. Additionally, the software conversion has been completed, and staff are now in the optimization stage.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Nominating Committee
The Nominating Committee met on August 19 to discuss the 2025-2026 PARA Subcommittees. Mrs. Peggy Hogue presented the same committees as the 2024-2025 fiscal year, with the addition of an Athletic Committee.
**On motion by Mr. Gary Falls, seconded by Dr. Tony Johnson, the PARA Board of Directors approved the 2025-2026 PARA Subcommittees.*



OLD BUSINESS

- Remote Attendance Policy

During the August Board of Directors meeting, 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.

- Mrs. Elizabeth Winter stressed that all board members should notify Jennifer LeGrone, PARA Executive Assistant, whether they can attend each board meeting.

**On a motion by Mrs. Peggy Hogue, seconded by Dr. Tony Johnson, the PARA Board of Directors unanimously approved the revised Remote Attendance Policy.*

NEW BUSINESS

- ADECA Grant – Sokol Park Lighting Upgrades

Discussed during the Chief Executive Officer's report.

- FOCUS on Senior Citizens

The PARA Board discussed that the Executive Committee should accompany Brian Davis to speak with FOCUS on Senior Citizens Board of Directors regarding their lease agreement with PARA. Further discussions on the lease agreement will take place during the Executive Session.

- BAMA Lease

The BAMA Lease will be discussed during the executive session and will be returned to the regular session for voting.

- Ol' Colony Disc Golf Course

Adrian Cleckler, PARA COO, reported on discussions with Christian LeBlanc, President of the Tuscaloosa Disc Golf Club, regarding relocating the disc golf course currently at Ol' Colony Golf Course. Following an initial request from the City of Northport through the Disc Golf Club to consider Kentuck Park, the Club expressed preference not to move to Kentuck. Discussions then focused on relocating the course to Sokol Park, which would run along the park's perimeter without crossing existing trail systems. The proposed move would address ongoing security concerns at Ol' Colony and other operational issues, while strengthening PARA's partnership with the Disc Golf Club.

- Board of Directors Annual Meeting

Mrs. Winter announced that October 7 will be the Board's annual meeting.

- 2026 PARA Board Meeting Schedule

A 2026 PARA Board Meeting Schedule was presented to the Board. A discussion was held to make the July Board Meeting on the 14th instead of the 7th.

**On a motion by Dr. Craig Fairburn, seconded by Dr. Tony Johnson, the PARA Board unanimously approved the presented 2026 schedule, with an edit being made to the July date.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Chair Mrs. Elizabeth Winter requested that the Board move into Executive Session to discuss legal matters and leases. It was stated that the session would last approximately an hour to an hour and a half and that the Board would return to Regular Session for votes.

**At 4:34 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 5:35 p.m., a motion to end the Executive Session was made by Mr. Hunter Taylor and seconded by Dr. Tony Johnson.*

**On a motion by Dr. Tony Johnson, seconded by Dr. Craig Fairburn, the PARA Board of Directors unanimously authorized Brian Davis, PARA CEO, to negotiate the BAMA Lease.*

**Mr. Gary Falls moved to approve the Arts Council's request to extend its lease agreement with PARA. Mrs. Peggy Hogue and Mr. Curtis Travis voted in favor of the motion. Dr. Tony Johnson, Dr. Craig Fairburn, and Mr. Hunter Taylor voted in opposition. With the vote tied, Chair Elizabeth Winter voted against the motion. The motion failed.*

At 5:39 p.m., with no further business, Mrs. Elizabeth Winter adjourned the meeting.

Elizabeth Winter, Board Chair

Brian Davis, Chief Executive Officer