



**TUSCALOOSA COUNTY PARK & RECREATION AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ANNUAL MEETING**

Jerry Pate Facility

Tuesday, October 7, 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 (absent), 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, and Shanon Lyles*

PROCEEDINGS

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

VISITORS/GUESTS

- Mrs. Peggy Hogue, former PARA Board Member
Mrs. Peggy Hogue was recognized upon her retirement after 22 years of faithful service to the PARA Board of Directors. Her leadership, dedication, and compassion have left a lasting mark on the organization and its people.
CEO Brian Davis shared, "In my two and a half years here, you've been instrumental to me. You were never loud, but when needing something, you'd say, 'This is the way I would do it, but you can do it how you want to.'" COO Adrian Cleckler added, "You have always treated us like one of your children. It makes me want to work harder because of people like you. You've treated each of us as individuals and helped shape us, whether you realized it or not."
In response, Mrs. Hogue expressed her gratitude, saying, "It's been my honor. One of my first impressions was that the staff was always working so hard – dedicated, committed, and supportive of one another – and that's been the key for 55 years." She concluded warmly, "I've never heard a complaint, but I know I haven't heard it all."
To honor her service, PARA presented Mrs. Hogue with a bouquet of flowers and a certificate recognizing her dedication and invaluable contributions to the organization.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

Chief Executive Officer

Reported by Brian Davis

- Mary Ann Phelps' donations
Brian informed the Board that, as of today, \$1,850.00 has been donated to Mason's Place in memory of Mary Ann Phelps. Thank-you letters have been sent to all donors. Jennifer is preparing a letter to the Phelps family, which will be sent once all donations are believed to be received. The PARA Board of Directors Chair, the Chief Executive Officer, and the PARA Foundation Board Chair will sign the letter.

- After School Programming/Al's Pals
A highlight of the fall has been the launch of PARA's new partnership with the Al's Pals STEM program, which began on September 16. This initiative currently serves students in grades 1–5, sparking creativity and problem-solving skills, and there is excitement about expanding the program to include kindergarteners in the future.
- Miller Center Volleyball
Facility maintenance is underway to repair two basketball goals in the gym, while adding a new volleyball net has created opportunities to expand offerings. The County is also constructing Pickleball courts at the Miller Center in-kind. The Miller Center is currently working on a partnership with DR Horton, the construction company responsible for building the neighborhoods surrounding it.
- Hurricane Creek – UA Volunteers
On September 20, PARA welcomed fifty University of Alabama students to Hurricane Creek for their annual Hands on Tuscaloosa service day. Volunteers spent the day clearing trails and beaches, creating a cleaner and more welcoming space for visitors. Their efforts made a noticeable difference, and two additional workdays with UA students are already scheduled for October 18 and November 1, extending the positive impact of this partnership.
- Innovate AL – Van de Graaff Grant
Tuscaloosa County is pursuing a \$700,000 Innovate Alabama Network Project Grant to support significant improvements at Van de Graaff Arboretum & Historic Bridge Park, which PARA operates and maintains on the County's behalf. The proposed project focuses on enhancing visitor experience and expanding outdoor recreation opportunities through infrastructure upgrades, including a new restroom and shower facility, expanded RV camping with underground hookups, upgraded electrical and septic systems, new park signage, and improved lighting and security throughout the park. These enhancements will preserve the park's natural and historical character while increasing its accessibility, safety, and tourism potential. PARA's contribution to the project will include approximately \$16,000 in in-kind labor and equipment services.

Following the Chief Executive Officer's Report, Chair Elizabeth Winter inquired about the Leroy McAbee, Sr. Activity Center, its partnership with FOCUS on Senior Citizens, and the programming offered at the facility. Brian noted that he would provide additional information to the Chair and added that the McAbee Center is a significant hub for Pickleball activities. Chair Winter then asked for clarification regarding communications within the Athletic Department. Brian explained that the Athletics team met last week to establish updated communication guidelines and procedures, emphasizing consistent and proactive communication with coaches, parents, and park operations staff. He also noted that forming the Athletics Committee, a subcommittee of the PARA Board, will strengthen coordination and transparency in this area. Dr. Craig Fairburn, Chair of the Athletics Committee, encouraged both Board members and PARA staff to share the names of individuals who may be interested in serving or who would be a strong fit for the committee.

Financial Report

Reported by Mike Crady

- August reflected a decrease in cash flow of \$188,504.14, primarily due to a third payroll during the month. Account/audit basis income was -\$289,432.10, bringing year-to-date income to \$755,188.56 and total cash flows to a positive \$538,113.11. As of August 31, 2025, cash balances were: Unrestricted – \$3,764,596.50 (+\$538,113.11 YTD); Restricted Beer Tax Fund – \$112,494.96 (-\$15,351.74 YTD); and Restricted Veterans Park Fund – \$908,021.96 (+\$50,471.59 YTD). Revenues are 94.6% of the budget, and expenses are at 90%, with overall operations steady versus last year. Excluding the Toyota Classic, revenues have increased by over \$705,000 and expenses by about \$617,000, showing effective cost management. Part-time wages are down more than \$46,000 from FY2024. In profitability changes, Overhead & Parks (+\$216,603.77), Jerry Belk (+\$37,057.20), and Bobby Miller (+\$19,487.26) led gains, while Ol' Colony Golf Course (-\$133,013.32) and McDonald Hughes (-\$37,116.57) reflected declines. PARA achieved an overall



net increase in profitability of \$88,127.00 and remains well-positioned for a strong fiscal year finish, with the FY2026 budget process now underway.

Aquatics & Outdoor Pursuits Report

Reported by Mark Harrison

- Aquatics Maintenance
Outdoor aquatic facilities are being winterized, and indoor pools are undergoing annual shutdowns for deep cleaning and maintenance. Work includes draining pools, replacing lights, servicing chemical systems, and completing preventative maintenance. Facilities will reopen by mid-December, following work at Faucett, Bobby Miller, McAbee, and Tingle Center.
- Facility Recognition
The Greene County Commission toured PARA facilities while planning their own aquatic center. Commissioners commended the Palmore Splash Pad and Faucett Center for cleanliness, upgrades, and new fitness equipment.
- Staffing and Training
Eighty-five staff are currently employed, with seasonal staffing ranging from 75–130. Seven ARC Lifeguard classes certified 50 participants, and PARA hosted an Instructor Trainer Recertification for professionals from multiple Alabama cities.
- Community Engagement
The Swim to the Top 2025 program, in partnership with UA and the YMCA, served 130 children and eight adults, adding adult swim lessons this year. PARA also continued inclusive canoeing programs with Crossing Points and partnered with Hale County's Sawyerville Summer Camp, serving over 200 participants at Bowers Pool.
- Outdoor Pursuits
Outdoor recreation programs expand, particularly in archery, with beginner and advanced classes and a November tournament planned. Indoor climbing has been added to the homeschool PE curriculum.
- Outdoor Learning Institute
A new Outdoor Learning Institute will offer Level 3 skill-building courses focused on environmental education, including hiking, campfire, culinary, camping, and wilderness survival programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Facilities Committee
Brian provided the report in Hunter Taylor's absence as Facilities Committee Chair. PARA is awaiting a letter from the City of Tuscaloosa regarding the acceptance of property, with additional information to follow.
The grand opening of the Northridge Pickleball Courts is scheduled for the morning of October 30, with continued discussions between PARA, the Pickleball community, Kim Brown, and Jay Logan. Construction at the Tuscaloosa Tennis Center remains on schedule and is expected to be completed by the beginning of the new year.
Construction is ongoing at Iron & Ember, including the installation of a bar area in one of the bays. PARA is in the process of securing alcohol licensing through the ABC Board and announced a new food truck partnership with Jalapeños. The partnership features a profit-sharing model of 10% of gross sales in year one, increasing to 15% in year two.

OLD BUSINESS – N/A



NEW BUSINESS

- **Extension of FY2025 Budget**

As of this meeting, PARA has yet to receive its funding agreements. Therefore, they request that the FY25 budget be extended until December 31, 2025.

**On a motion by Dr. Tony Johnson, seconded by Mr. Curtis Travis, the PARA Board unanimously approved extending the FY2025 budget until December 31, 2025.*

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Chair Mrs. Elizabeth Winter requested that the Board move into Executive Session for a legal update. It was stated that the session would last approximately fifteen minutes.

**At 4:56 p.m., Mrs. Elizabeth Winter adjourned the meeting into Executive Session. Mrs. Winters conducted a roll call, and all members present voted in favor.*

ADJOURNMENT

**At 5:22 p.m., a motion to end the Executive Session was made by Mr. Gary Falls and seconded by Dr. Tony Johnson.*

Elizabeth Winter, Board Chair

Brian Davis, Chief Executive Officer