



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

**Jerry Pate Facility**

Tuesday, November 4, 2025, 4:00 pm

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** *Chair* Elizabeth Winter, Curtis Travis, Gary Falls, Hunter Taylor, and Steven Deal

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

**PROCEEDINGS**

- Mrs. Winter called the meeting to order.
  - Mrs. Elizabeth Winter opened the meeting by notifying the Board of the passing of Board Member Brion Hardin. The Board expressed its deep sadness at the loss of Mr. Hardin and extended heartfelt condolences to his family. His dedicated service and contributions to PARA were recognized and appreciated by all in attendance.
- October 2025 approval of minutes.  
*\*Motioned by Mr. Curtis Travis, seconded by Mr. Hunter Taylor, the Board unanimously approved the October 2025 Minutes.*

**VISITORS/GUESTS**

- David Popen, D&G Community Development  
Mr. David Popen of D&G Community Development provided an overview of his firm's engagement with the PARA Foundation to conduct a MAPS (Market Assessment and Positioning Study) for Mason's Place Phases II and III. He explained that the study will assess fundraising potential and help position the Foundation for a future capital campaign to support these subsequent phases of the All-Inclusive Playground project. Mr. Popen's remarks were brief and informative, outlining the scope and purpose of the MAPS study, which will serve as the first step toward planning and executing a comprehensive fundraising campaign.
  - Mrs. Elizabeth Winters, PARA Board Chair, noted the importance of being particularly careful and strategic with PARA's funding partners should the initiative move forward beyond the MAPS portion and D&G begin to request donations.
- Mrs. Elizabeth Winters introduced Mr. Steven Deal of Pritchett-Moore to the Board of Directors as PARA's newest member. Mr. Deal was appointed by the City of Tuscaloosa to fill the seat previously held by Mrs. Peggy Hogue.



## REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

Chief Executive Officer

*Reported by Brian Davis*

- Adaptive Fitness Tailgate  
PARA's Adaptive Fitness program hosted its first-ever Tailgate Party on October 23 at Faucett Brothers Activity Center, welcoming about 60 participants with mental and physical disabilities for a day of inclusive fun. The event featured football-themed games, a cookout, and appearances by Big Al and a University of Alabama cheerleader, with attendees from Arts & Autism, UCP, Eagles Wings, and the broader community.
- Sokol Park Red Barn Renovations  
Renovations at Sokol Park's Red Barn are progressing well. PARA's crews and University of Alabama student volunteers recently completed repairs, painting, and staining of the entrance area.
- Boo! In the Park Recap  
Despite a last-minute move indoors due to rain, PARA's annual Boo! in the Park was a success, drawing hundreds of families and over 40 vendors to the Mary Ann Phelps Activity Center. The event, supported by Abilio, emphasized accessibility and inclusion and remains one of PARA's most popular community gatherings.
- Veterans Day Program  
PARA will host its annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Monday, November 11, at 10 a.m. at Veterans Memorial Park. CEO Brian C. Davis will deliver the keynote address, with presentations, music, and participation from local veterans' organizations.
- Northridge Pickleball Courts  
The grand opening of the Northridge Outdoor Pickleball Courts was held on October 30 at Buddy Powell Pavilion, marking the debut of eight new courts developed through a partnership among PARA, the City of Tuscaloosa, and Tuscaloosa County.
- PARA In-Service Training Day  
PARA hosted a staff in-service training at Jerry Belk Activity Center for nearly 50 employees, led by Chris Nunes, CPRE, a nationally recognized parks and recreation executive. The sessions focused on customer experience, leadership, and innovation, with lunch provided by Jalapeños Catering.

## Financial Report

*Reported by Mike Crady*

- PARA closed the fiscal year with positive net cash flows of \$503,015.61 and a preliminary net income of \$547,280.42 before final adjustments. As of September 30, 2025, unrestricted cash totaled \$3.73 million, with restricted balances of \$112,854 in the Beer Tax Fund and \$901,422 in the Veterans Park Fund. Total operating revenues reached just over \$16.5 million, or 102.5% of budget, while expenses came in at 99.1% of budget. Positive variances were driven by higher-than-expected revenues from insurance proceeds, timber sales, and interest income, as well as expense savings from reduced part-time staffing and turnover among full-time positions. Overall, PARA achieved favorable results across most departments, with notable performance from the Bobby Miller Activity Center, which exceeded its revenue target by 11.5%. The CFO noted that PARA now enters FY2026 with a dynamic outlook, focusing on budget planning amid the Tuscaloosa Tennis Center expansion and the opening of Iron & Ember.



## PARA4Life/Senior Programs

Reported by Kim Brown

Mrs. Kim Brown reported on the status of the PARA4Life program, the Senior Travel program, and the growing Pickleball offerings under her supervision at the McAbee Activity Center. She noted that PARA4Life continues to thrive as a hub for active older adults, delivering a steady stream of fitness, social, and enrichment activities that keep the community engaged and connected. On the travel front, Mrs. Brown shared that upcoming trips for 2026 are already shaping up, with highlights including a motorcoach excursion to the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC, scheduled for December and other extended-travel opportunities through the year.

She also highlighted that the Pickleball program continues to expand rapidly – it is now one of PARA’s fastest-growing recreational offerings. The ribbon-cutting of the new outdoor courts at Northridge Park (adjacent to the Buddy Powell Pavilion) is complete, and additional courts are planned in partnership with the city and county to meet strong demand.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Facilities Committee

Mr. Hunter Taylor reported that the Facilities Committee met on Monday, November 5, to review the draft layout for the proposed Disc Golf course, designed by the Tuscaloosa Disc Golf Club, which is planned to relocate from Ol’ Colony Golf Complex to Sokol Park. After reviewing the design, the Committee identified several concerns and determined that the layout would need to be revised before moving forward.

## OLD BUSINESS – N/A

## NEW BUSINESS

- Tuscaloosa Tennis Center Naming Recommendations

Mrs. Elizabeth Winters informed the Board that the City of Tuscaloosa has proposed naming the outdoor Championship Courts at the Tuscaloosa Tennis Center in honor of Emily Baker. Mrs. Baker has been a dedicated supporter of tennis in Tuscaloosa and a key contributor to the growth and success of the Tennis Center through her leadership and generosity.

Although the Tennis Center property is owned by the City, PARA operates and maintains the site. The PARA Board discussed the proposal and expressed its full support for the City’s plan to dedicate and name the Championship Courts after Emily Baker in recognition of her lasting impact on the local tennis community.

*\*On a motion by Mr. Steven Deal, seconded by Mr. Gary Falls, and with Mr. Hunter Taylor abstaining, the PARA Board of Directors voted to approve supporting the City of Tuscaloosa’s proposal to name the Championship Courts at the Tuscaloosa Tennis Center in honor of Emily Baker.*

## EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

## ADJOURNMENT

*\*At 4:36 p.m., a motion to end the PARA Board of Directors meeting was made by Mr. Curtis Travis and seconded by Mr. Hunter Taylor.*

Elizabeth Winter, Board Chair

Brian Davis, Chief Executive Officer