



TUSCALOOSA COUNTY PARK & RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Iron & Ember, Jerry Pate Facility

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 4:00 pm

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Elizabeth Winter, Gary Falls, Hunter Taylor, Dr. Craig Fairburn, Dr. Tony Johnson, Curtis Travis, and Steven Deal

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

PROCEEDINGS

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

VISITORS/GUESTS – N/A

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

Chief Executive Officer

Reported by Brian Davis

- 49th Annual West Alabama Christmas Parade Recap
Brian provided an update on the 49th Annual West Alabama Christmas Parade, noting that PARA honored two longstanding pillars of the organization, Mrs. Peggy Hogue and Mrs. Mary Ann Phelps. Mrs. Hogue expressed her appreciation for the recognition, and members of the Phelps family were present and honored during the event.
An extended special thanks to Board Member Hunter Taylor for volunteering his truck as the parade's lead vehicle. Appreciation was also given to the PARA Park Operations team for their hard work and dedication in preparation for and during the parade.
- Iron & Ember Grand Opening Recap
Brian provided a recap of the Iron & Ember grand opening and first month of operations. During its first month, Iron & Ember generated approximately \$11,000 in sales, with total revenue nearing \$13,000, including gift card sales. Additionally, Jalapeños reported gross sales of approximately \$2,500. In accordance with the operating agreement, PARA will receive 10% of Jalapeños' gross sales.

At this time, Brian opened the floor to John Gray, Director of Golf, for an announcement. Mr. Gray notified the PARA Board of Directors and staff members present that he plans to retire in March 2026.

Mr. Gray shared that the sudden passing of Brion Hardin prompted him to reevaluate how he allocates his time, stating that he wishes to spend more time with his grandchildren and noting that the only thing no one is making more of is time.

Following the announcement, Dr. Tony Johnson, Board Member and Chair of the Ol' Colony Advisory Committee, expressed his appreciation and gratitude to Mr. Gray for his many years of dedicated service to PARA and the community. Dr. Johnson also expressed his appreciation for Mr. Gray's plan to remain involved through private lessons and continued fellowship.

Financial Report

Reported by Mike Crady

- November financials reflected a slightly negative month with a balance of (\$12,759.77), bringing the two-month total to (\$335,403.02). Due to the recent fiscal year adjustment, FY2025 has been extended to a 15-month fiscal year, with the updated operating balance for FY2025 (October 2024–November 2025) remaining positive at \$386,429.54 and cash flows totaling \$137,894.61. While overall revenues have slowed and operating revenues are down approximately \$50,000 year-over-year, programmatic areas continue to show growth, particularly basketball, cheerleading, and therapeutic recreation, contributing to a \$63,000 increase in total program revenues compared to 2024. Staff anticipates that February and March will be tight months, as PARA enters its lowest revenue period and expenses increase; however, planned price increases for activity center memberships, golf greens fees, and driving range fees taking effect by February are expected to help improve revenue as spring approaches.

Fitness Programs Report

Reported by Amber Pope

- Amber Pope provided an update on PARA's fitness programs, noting continued growth and strong participation across multiple areas. The 'New Year New You' initiative has seen positive engagement, and staff are preparing for several upcoming Health Fairs to further promote wellness throughout the community. Group Fitness remains a strong offering with approximately 60 classes offered weekly, while Adaptive Fitness programming continues to expand access and inclusivity. Ms. Pope also expressed appreciation for the updated fitness equipment at the Activity Centers, which has enhanced member experience and program quality. Additionally, personal training participation has grown significantly, increasing from 3 clients to 30 clients. Ms. Pope noted that her current focus is on growing senior programming at the Jerry Tingle Activity Center and developing creative, diverse programming offerings to ensure the Tingle Center provides programs not available through nearby competitors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Ol' Colony Advisory Committee
The Ol' Colony Advisory Committee Chair, Dr. Tony Johnson, reported that, at the December Ol' Colony Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee proposed an increase in range and green fees for City of Tuscaloosa and County residents, as well as non-county residents. The Committee also proposed the purchase of an automated mower in the amount of \$30,000. It was noted that the proposed fee increases would offset the cost of the mower.
**On a motion by Dr. Tony Johnson, seconded by Dr. Craig Fairburn, the PARA Board of Directors unanimously approved the range and green fee price increases for City of Tuscaloosa, County, and non-county residents, as well as the purchase of an automated mower in the amount of \$30,000.*

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS

- Nominating Committee Chair & Members
Mrs. Winter informed the Board of Directors that Dr. Tony Johnson has been selected as a member of the PARA Nominating Subcommittee, as well as Dr. Craig Fairburn.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Chair Mrs. Elizabeth Winter requested that the Board move into Executive Session to discuss property and leases. It was stated that the session would last approximately forty-five minutes and that they may return to the regular session for a vote, if needed.

**At 4:37 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 5:57 p.m., a motion to end the Executive Session was made by Mr. Hunter Taylor and seconded by Mr. Steven Deal.*

Elizabeth Winter, *Board Chair*

Brian Davis, *Chief Executive Officer*