



TUSCALOOSA COUNTY PARK & RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Iron & Ember, Jerry Pate Facility

Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 4:00 pm

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

PARA STAFF PRESENT: *Chief Executive Officer Brian Davis, Amy Rainey, Christo Sullivan, Jay Logan, Jennifer LeGrone, Mark Harrison, Mike Crady, Mike Shivetts*

PROCEEDINGS

- Mrs. Winter called the meeting to order.
- March 2026 approval of minutes.
**Motioned by Dr. Tony Johnson, seconded by Dr. Craig Fairburn, the Board unanimously approved the March 2026 Minutes.*

VISITORS/GUESTS – N/A

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

Chief Executive Officer

Reported by Brian Davis

- Brian reported that PARA assisted the County's grant writer with information for the Innovate Alabama Grant at Van de Graaff Park. The County was awarded \$125,000, and staff is working with County leadership to prioritize improvements, including restrooms and electrical service, with additional conduit planned for future RV site upgrades.
- The pickleball courts at Bowers Park are now open and being well utilized, with positive community feedback.

Brian shared that PARA hosted over 120 teams for the ARPA State Basketball Tournament, noting the event's success and expressing appreciation to city schools for their support. It was also reported that the Eggstravaganza at Sokol Park North drew an estimated 5,000 attendees and included a variety of activities, with over 8,000 eggs distributed.

Brian announced that the Gauntlet event, in partnership with the Marine Corps Foundation, will be held over two days and feature youth, community, and competitive divisions.

Finally, the CEO reported that staff are vacating the downtown office and expressed great appreciation to Adrian for her leadership. PARA is coordinating relocation to the County annex and temporary storage until a permanent facility is established.

Financial Report

Reported by Mike Crady

- The Chief Financial Officer reported that February reflected a negative operating balance of \$259,718.10, resulting in a fiscal year-to-date deficit of \$648,957.49 due to delayed City appropriations. With approximately \$774,000 in accrued appropriations received in March, the adjusted fiscal year balance is approximately +\$125,000.

Cash balances as of February 28, 2026, were \$2,954,757.20 in unrestricted funds, \$121,890.73 in the Beer Tax Fund, and \$916,488.96 in the Veterans Park Fund.

The CFO reported that PARA-generated revenues exceeded 2025 totals by more than \$265,000, with notable increases across activity centers: aquatics (+\$11,000), tennis (+\$25,000), Ol' Colony (+\$49,000), and Iron & Ember (+\$27,000). Operating expenses have remained relatively stable, contributing to an improved financial position compared to the prior year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Committee

Reported by Hunter Taylor

- Hunter Taylor, Facilities Committee Chair, reported to the Board that at the Committee's April 6 meeting, Brian Davis presented Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for architectural and civil engineering services related to the development of a new PARA Administrative Office Facility.

The proposed project includes a 3,000–5,000-square-foot prefabricated or pre-engineered building with associated site development and infrastructure, with an anticipated total project budget of \$750,000 to \$1,000,000.

Brian stated that, pending Board approval, the RFQs will be distributed on April 10, 2026, with a projected selection timeline in early May. The Board discussed the opportunity to provide recommendations of qualified architectural and engineering firms for inclusion in the solicitation process.

**On a motion by Mr. Hunter Taylor, seconded by Dr. Tony Johnson, the Board unanimously approved that PARA's CEO email the RFQs to architects and engineers.*

OLD BUSINESS – N/A

NEW BUSINESS – N/A

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS

- Prior to entering Executive Session, Mrs. Elizabeth Winter inquired about traffic concerns at Sokol Park North and whether any further discussions or plans had been developed. Brian Davis reported that he had spoken with the Mayor and is awaiting direction and options from City leadership. Potential solutions, including the presence of a police officer at the intersection, were discussed.

Mrs. Winter also asked about the status of Grapes on the Green for 2026. Mr. Davis indicated that a June event may not be feasible; however, staff is considering alternative dates in late September or early October. Mrs. Winter emphasized the importance of the event as a signature program for PARA, Ol' Colony, and the surrounding community.

Dr. Tony Johnson raised concerns about Sunday operations at Iron & Ember, specifically noting issues with access to driving-range balls. Mr. Davis stated that the matter would be addressed.



EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 4:28 p.m., Mrs. Elizabeth Winter, Board Chair, stated that the Board would enter into Executive Session to discuss lease agreements and contracts and noted that no vote was expected following the session.

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

Upon conclusion of the Executive Session, the Board returned to the Regular Session. No action was taken, and no votes were cast as a result of the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:35 p.m., with there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned, on a motion by Mr. Gary Falls, seconded by Mr. Danny Higdon.

Elizabeth Winter, *Board Chair*

Brian Davis, *Chief Executive Officer*