



TUSCALOOSA COUNTY PARK & RECREATION AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Iron & Ember, Jerry Pate Facility

Tuesday, May 5, 2026, 4:00 pm

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

PARA STAFF PRESENT: *Chief Executive Officer Brian Davis, Christo Sullivan, Jay Logan, Jennifer LeGrone, Mike Shivetts*

PROCEEDINGS

- Mrs. Winter called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
- April 2026 approval of minutes.
**Motioned by Mr. Gary Falls, seconded by Dr. Tony Johnson, the Board unanimously approved the April 2026 Minutes.*

VISITORS/GUESTS

- David Popen, D&G Community Development, was engaged by the PARA Foundation to conduct a study regarding fundraising and inclusive recreation.

REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

Chief Executive Officer

Reported by Brian Davis

- Brian Davis reported that the outdoor aquatic season is underway. The Palmore splash pad opened in April for corporate events and school celebrations. The pool is scheduled to open Memorial Day weekend, and reservations are trending well. PARA is actively recruiting lifeguards, with training classes scheduled.
- Brian reported that the 2026 Tuscaloosa Gauntlet was PARA's best to date, with 618 participants, including 223 children. The event format was changed to include a Friday night family event with bounce houses, food trucks, and live music.
- Brian reported that Northside Park received a new playground funded by Commissioner Acker in the amount of \$96,000. A ribbon cutting was held, and a fence has been ordered for the playground area.
- The Memorial Day Program will be held on May 25, 2026, and Grapes on the Green is scheduled for Tuesday, September 22, 2026.

Financial Report

Reported by Brian Davis

- Brian Davis, on behalf of Mike Crady, reported a positive financial month following the receipt of appropriations from the City of Tuscaloosa. PARA reported a positive monthly balance of \$747,783.30, bringing the year-to-date balance to \$100,817.92. Through 25% of the fiscal year, PARA has received 26.6% of budgeted revenues and expended 26% of budgeted expenses. Cash balances as of March 31, 2026, included \$3,609,938.06 in Unrestricted Cash, \$75,664.51 in the Restricted Beer Tax Fund, and \$909,347.21 in the Restricted Veterans Park Fund. PARA-generated revenues accounted for nearly 52% of total revenues, compared to 48% from appropriations, with revenues increasing approximately \$418,000 year-over-year while expenses increased approximately \$242,000.

- Activity center revenues continue to perform well overall despite declines at four locations. Faucett Center revenues are up more than 25% compared to the previous year, while Phelps and Bobby Miller Centers reported revenue increases exceeding 15%. Spring programs, including baseball, softball, and soccer, have each experienced revenue increases of at least 10%. PARA also hosted the ARPA Basketball Tournament in March, generating approximately \$88,000 in revenue against approximately \$50,000 in expenses, with invoices still being finalized.
- Brian further reported that audit fieldwork is expected to begin in early May and that funding application season is underway, with the City of Tuscaloosa funding application due May 29th. Additionally, PARA earned approximately \$14,000 in interest income during the previous month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Committee

Reported by Hunter Taylor

- The Facilities Committee discussed the proposed disc golf course and reported that the project is approximately 90% complete, pending further review of the course layout to ensure compatibility with other trail users. The Committee also reviewed a building on 29th Street and determined that it was not a current need for PARA.
- The Committee discussed the request for architectural and engineering services for a future PARA administration/revenue-generating facility. The Board discussed the need to further define the desired direction, location, purpose, and scope of any future facility before approving project funding.

**On a motion by Mr. Hunter Taylor, seconded by Dr. Craig Fairburn, the PARA Board unanimously approved Ward Scott Morris for architectural professional services related to a future PARA administration/revenue-generating facility.*

**On a motion by Mr. Hunter Taylor, seconded by Dr. Tony Johnson, the PARA Board approved Duncan Coker for civil engineering professional services related to a future PARA administration/revenue-generating facility, with Mr. Danny Higdon abstaining.*

Athletics Committee

Reported by Dr. Craig Fairburn

- Dr. Craig Fairburn reported on recent Athletics Committee meetings regarding PARA athletics programming, participation growth, and future facility needs. The Committee discussed continued growth in soccer programming, field space limitations, safety considerations, including lightning detection systems, and opportunities to expand volleyball and pickleball programming. The Board also discussed reviewing PARA's strategic plan related to athletic facilities and future programming opportunities, as well as the importance of coordination with the community and funding partners. Dr. Fairburn reported the addition of Walt Maddox, Richard Rush, and Robins Bonner to the Athletics Committee. Dr. Tony Johnson also requested that PARA pursue formal Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the West Alabama Mountain Biking Association and local disc golf organizations that utilize PARA property and facilities, and to ensure appropriate insurance and liability protections for outside groups using PARA facilities and trails.

OLD BUSINESS

- The Board discussed moving the September Board Meeting from September 8, 2026, to September 1, 2026, due to the Labor Day holiday.
**On a motion by Dr. Tony Johnson, seconded by Dr. Craig Fairburn, the PARA Board unanimously approved moving the September Board Meeting from September 8, 2026, to September 1, 2026.*

NEW BUSINESS

- The Board discussed outstanding debts, including the Hurricane Creek loan from Tuscaloosa County, the GolfZone debt, and the fitness equipment debt. The County requested repayment of the Hurricane Creek loan. The Board discussed investment yields, interest rates, and whether to pay off all outstanding debts. The fitness equipment debt was noted to bear interest at approximately 7.5%. The Golf Zone debt was noted to bear interest at approximately 4%.
**On a motion by Dr. Craig Fairburn, seconded by Mr. Danny Higdon, the PARA Board approved paying off the Hurricane Creek debt, Golf Zone debt, and fitness equipment debt. Dr. Tony Johnson opposed. Motion carried.*
- Legal counsel discussed the proposed Braughton Park operating agreement with Tuscaloosa County. The Board discussed structuring the agreement as a year-to-year agreement with automatic renewal unless terminated by either party. The Board discussed the importance of linking future operating agreements to funding and developing similar agreements for other parks and facilities.
**On a motion by Mr. Gary Falls, seconded by Dr. Craig Fairburn, the PARA Board unanimously approved allowing Chief Executive Officer Brian Davis to sign the operating agreement with Tuscaloosa County for Braughton Park, contingent upon the addition of a signature line for Board Chair Elizabeth Winter.*
- David Popen, D&G Community Development, presented a brief summary of the study conducted for the PARA Foundation regarding Mason's Place fundraising and inclusive recreation. Mr. Popen reported that the study results were positive and indicated strong fundraising potential. He stated that a campaign request in the range of approximately \$2.5 million to \$3 million for the All-Inclusive Playground and inclusive recreation facility improvements appeared to resonate strongly with potential donors.

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:24 p.m., with there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Elizabeth Winter, Board Chair

Brian Davis, Chief Executive Officer