



AGENDA
Spencer Parks and Recreation
Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
10:30 a.m.

DATE
November 5, 2025

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Regular meetings focus on action items, departmental reports, and other business. This meeting is open to the public and is held in the Hilda B. Palmer Board Room at Town Hall, located at 460 South Salisbury Avenue. Please find meeting agendas, minutes, and other information at spencernc.gov/town-government-and-services/appointed-boards-and-commissions/parks-recreation-advisory-board.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER – Chair Bob Pendergrass**
- 2. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 1, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes**
- 4. REVIEW AND FINALIZE – Draft Spencer Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 2025-26 Report & Workplan; Special Projects Planner Joe Morris**
- 5. DETERMINE NEXT MEETING DATE**
- 6. ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES
Spencer Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
October 1, 2025

The Town of Spencer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session to conduct a regular meeting in the Hilda B. Palmer Board Room at the Spencer Town Hall on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at 10:34 a.m.

Present were: Chair Bob Pendergrass
Vice Chair Dionne Dixon
Member Jim Gobbel
Member Jack Moore
Member Phip Sparger

Also present were: Alderwoman Erin Moody, Town Clerk Anna Kanode Ward, and Special Projects Planner Joe Morris.

Secretary Vivian Koontz was absent.

Chair Pendergrass called the meeting to order.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Action

Member Gobbel moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Vice Chair Dixon seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4 – 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 3, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

Action

Member Sparger moved to approve the September 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Vice Chair Dixon seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4 – 0.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATE – Outdoor Economy Conference

Chair Pendergrass and Town Clerk K. Ward gave a presentation regarding their attendance at the Outdoor Economy Conference (OEC), which was funded by the N.C. Department of Commerce as a result of the Town's Creating Outdoor Recreation Economies (CORE) Master Plan, and answered questions from the Board. Topics discussed included: importance of partnerships, opportunities with already available resources, need for increased/updated marketing of the Town's natural resources, and an upcoming CORE workshop.

Member Moore entered the Board Room at 10:45 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Town Park Update – Special Projects Planner Joe Morris

Items discussed included: "Be Carefree" sign and corporate sponsor logo unveiling at the dedication; scheduled replacement of dead plants and mulch touchup under warranty; press

release for the dedication.

Race to the River Update – Vice Chair Dionne Dixon

Items discussed included: registration; run of show; vendors; need for volunteers.

OLD BUSINESS

Fishing Policy Update – Special Projects Planner Joe Morris

Items discussed included: lack of prohibition on fishing; hunting ordinance; potential timeline for moving forward with a policy; logistics of enforcing a policy; need for a science-based approach and discussion with NC Wildlife Resources Commission regarding fish population; Chicken Springs Dam; Parks and Recreation Trust Fund (PARTF) grant.

Other items of discussion

Items discussed included: next PARTF cycle; ideas for what project to use for that application; Land and Water Fund Grant; matching funds; Rowan Tourism Authority grant for the metal park archway and sign add-on; Salisbury-Rowan Community Foundation grant application; use of 8th Street Ballpark, youth baseball in the area, and potential upcoming meeting between stakeholders; various upcoming events; need for a 2026 work plan; and Yadkin River area brownfields.

DETERMINE NEXT MEETING DATE

The 2025 Municipal Elections will be taking place on Tuesday, November 4, in the Town of Spencer Hilda B. Palmer Board Room. They will be packing up equipment the following morning, meaning the next PRAB meeting cannot be held at the regular time and place.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. in the Conference Room located in the Spencer Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Dixon moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Gobbel seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5 – 0. The meeting stood adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Approved by:

Attest:

Bob Pendergrass, Chair

Anna Kanode Ward, Town Clerk

Spencer Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

2025 -26

REPORT & WORKPLAN

2025 FORMATION

- BOA adopted an ordinance creating the Spencer Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- 6 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members were appointed
- BOA adopted bylaws and rules of Procedure
- Schedule of meeting dates were established (1st Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM)

2025 ACTIVITIES

- PRAB reviewed and endorsed the Stanback Forest Center Master Plan
- Applied for and received the PARTF grant for the Stanback Forest Center
- Spencer Town Park construction was completed and dedicated
- PRAB co-chair, Dionne Dixon, coordinated the “Race to the River” 5K and festival
- Staff and PRAB chair Bob Pendergrass attended Creating Outdoor Recreation Economies Conference (CORE) in Cherokee, NC
- Staff and PRAB member Jim Gobbel attended a regional CORE marketing workshop in Troy, NC

2026 WORKPLAN

- Request funding in the FY26-27 Town of Spencer Budget to hire a full-time Active Living Coordinator to implement recreation programming and projects
- Pursue grant and funding opportunities, including sponsorships and donations to implement the Spencer Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan to include facilities and recreation programs
- Pursue grant and funding opportunities, including sponsorships and donation, to implement the Creating Outdoor Recreation Economies plan
- Review and oversee PARTF grant for Stanback Forest Center project
- Review and oversee Great Trails State Grant trail development project for Stanback Forest
- Review and oversee the Connecting Communities to State Parks grant for the Grants Creek Blueway project

- Review and recommend policies for maintenance and use of the 8th Street Ball Park
- Coordinate with town staff and local organizations to program activities for Spencer Town Park
- Coordinate with local organizations, including the NC Transportation Museum, Spencer Partnership, Rowan County Tourism Development Authority, Rowan County Parks & Recreation, Salisbury Parks and Recreation, Catawba College, Rowan Salisbury Schools, and others, to implement recreational programs and facility improvements
- Coordinate with state and regional organizations, including NC Parks, NC Commerce, Carolina Thread Trail, Piedmont Legacy Trail, Davidson County Parks and Recreation, Yadkin Riverkeeper, and others, to implement recreational programs and facility improvements