



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

DATE
April 1, 2026

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 – March 4, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes**
- 4. UPDATE – Board of Aldermen Planning Session; Special Projects Planner Joe Morris**
- 5. DISCUSSION – Park Inspection Schedule; Chair Bob Pendergrass and Special Projects Planner Joe Morris**
- 6. PRESENTATION – CORE Trip to Elkin; Special Projects Planner Joe Morris**
- 7. UPDATES ON PROJECTS – Special Projects Planner Joe Morris**
- 8. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 6, 2026**
- 9. ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES
Spencer Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
March 4, 2026

The Town of Spencer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session in the Hilda B. Palmer Board Room at the Spencer Town Hall on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 10:32 a.m.

Present were: Chair Bob Pendergrass
Vice Chair Dionne Dixon
Secretary Vivian Koontz
Member Jim Gobbel
Member Phip Sparger

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

Member Jack Moore 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 5 – 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 7, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

Action

Member Gobbel moved to approve the January 7, 2026, Meeting Minutes. Vice Chair Dixon seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5 – 0.

FINALIZE – Draft Spencer Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 2025 – 2026 Report & Workplan

Special Projects Planner Morris gave a presentation regarding the draft Spencer Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 2025 – 2026 Report & Workplan, which he had updated with recommendations from board members at prior meetings, and answered questions from the Board.

Action

Vice Chair Dixon moved to finalize the Spencer Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 2025 – 2026 Report & Workplan. Secretary Koontz seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5 – 0.

REVIEW – Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Cal Ripken Youth Baseball League

Special Projects Planner Morris gave a presentation regarding draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Cal Ripken Youth Baseball League for use of the 8th Street Ballpark and answered questions from the Board. Once the Board of Aldermen (BOA) has approved the 2026 Work Plan, which includes the MOU, that will empower PRAB to negotiate the MOU. Town staff will be able to work on the rough draft, consult with the town attorney, and collaborate with the Cal Ripken League. Once the PRAB has finalized the draft, it will be presented to the BOA during a regular meeting for their authorization.

UPDATES ON PROJECTS

Special Projects Planner Morris gave a presentation regarding updates on various parks and recreation related projects and answered questions from the Board.

Topics included: Great Trail State Grant, Grant’s Creek Blueway project, current Stanback Forest Center project timeline, donation for a children’s discovery and play garden in Spencer Town Park along with an application for additional funding to the Robertson Foundation, and upcoming Spencer Town Park rentals.

BOARD OF ALDERMEN PLANNING SESSION & NEXT MEETING DATE

Special Projects Planner Morris reminded the Board that the Board of Aldermen would have their annual strategic planning session the evening of March 5, 2026, and continue the following day, March 6, 2026. He also reminded them that the next PRAB meeting would be on April 1, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

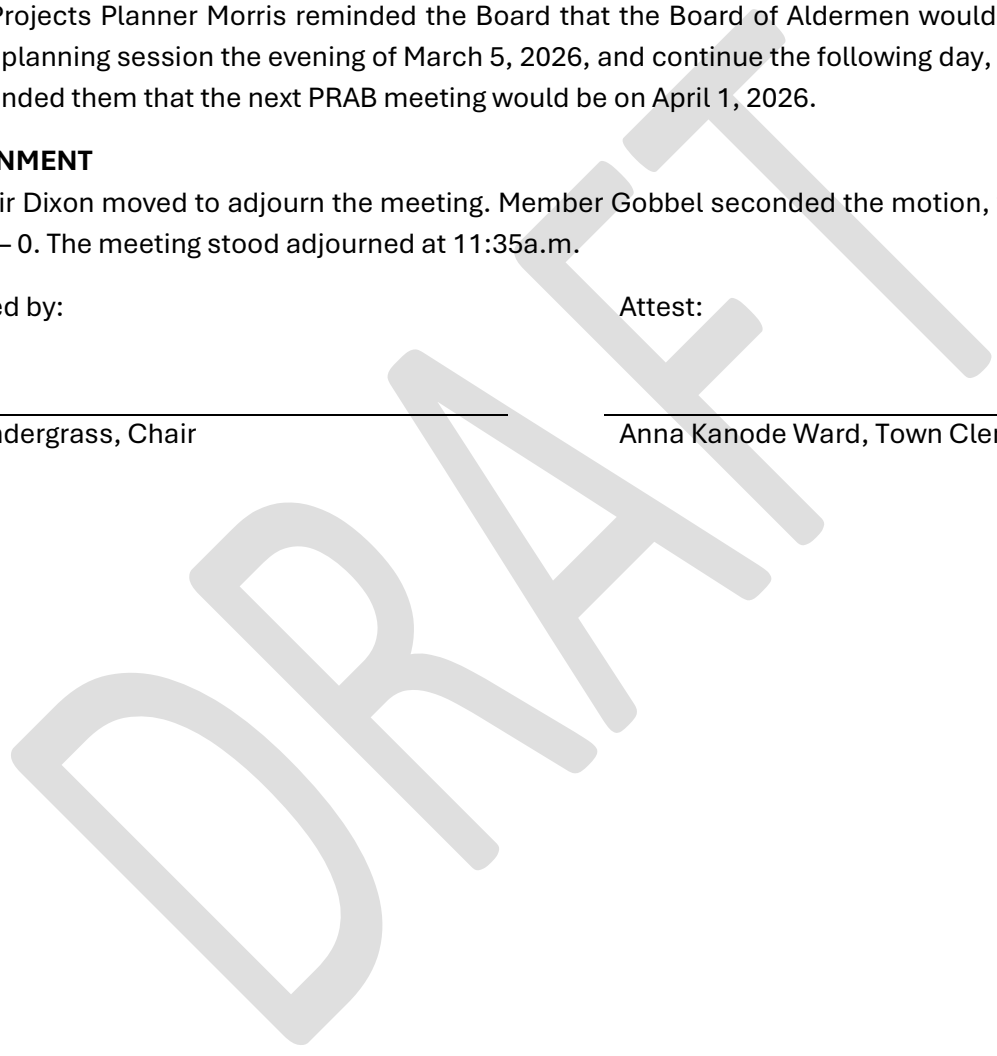
Vice Chair Dixon moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Gobbel seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5 – 0. The meeting stood adjourned at 11:35a.m.

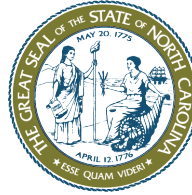
Approved by:

Attest:

Bob Pendergrass, Chair

Anna Kanode Ward, Town Clerk





NORTH CAROLINA
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Wilkes County & Surry County, North Carolina: Outdoor Driven Business & Economic Development Site Visit Tuesday, April 28 – Thursday, April 30, 2026

Focus: Outdoor recreation economy, small-business development, trails as economic drivers, and conservation partnerships

DAY 1 (Tuesday, April 28th) — Wilkes County: Outdoor Industry, Trail Systems, and Recreation Infrastructure

11:00 AM – Welcome & Introductions

Location: Wilkes County Health Foundation Office

Speaker: NC Outdoor Economy Office

Focus:

- Setting the stage for the days ahead
- State and National Trends in outdoor recreation economy
- Participant introductions

11:30 AM – Welcome & Orientation

Location: Wilkes County Health Foundation

Speakers: Wilkes County Health Foundation, Visit Wilkes TDA, Wilkesboro Town Manager

Focus:

- Overview of Wilkes County's outdoor recreation economy
- Economic impact of trail systems, reservoirs, events, and local business clusters
- Trail-to-town connectivity
- Outdoor culture as a driver for business recruitment and tourism

12:30 PM – Lunch: Downtown Wilkesboro

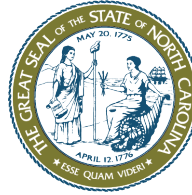
1:30 PM – Cub Creek Park & Wilkesboro Trail System Tour (TBD)

Host: Town of Wilkesboro Parks & Recreation

Focus:

- Mountain bike trail development
- Volunteer engagement and local event impacts
- Youth cycling and National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) programs

2:40 PM – Drive to Hidden Brook Sporting Club (TBD)



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Hidden Brook Sporting Club is a resort located on 285 acres in Wilkes County's Brushy Mountains. Hidden Brook provides a public sporting destination for all visitors offering sporting clays, Five Stand, skeet, and trap ranges, archery, hiking, biking, and fishing within a peaceful natural setting

Speakers: Sporting Club Owners/Wilkes County EDC

Focus:

- Why Wilkes County?
- Support from local economic developers
- Opportunities for Business Growth
- Diverse recreation opportunities
- Trends in sporting lifestyle and shooting sports

5:00 PM - Break/Exploration/Hotel Check-In

6:30 PM – Dinner - Downtown North Wilkesboro

DAY 2 (Wednesday, April 29th) — Elkin: Trail Town Development, Blueways, and Outdoor Tourism

9:00 AM – Elkin as an Outdoor Trail Town

Location: Elkin Town Hall or Heritage & Trails Center

Hosts: Town of Elkin, Main Street Elkin, Friends of Mountains-to-Sea Trail

Focus:

- Mountains-to-Sea Trail development
- Role of trails in driving downtown revitalization
- Multi-jurisdiction partnership model
- Trail connectivity to downtown

10:00AM - Elkin Valley Trails Association (EVTA) Headquarters Visit

Speaker: EVTA Executive Director

Location: Elkin Town Hall or Heritage & Trails Center

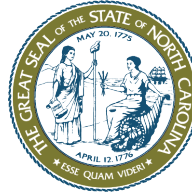
Focus:

- Volunteer trail building
- Conservation & land acquisition
- Long-term community trail vision

11:00AM – Elkin Downtown Walking Tour

Hosts: Elkin Main Street & Community Manager

Focus:



- Trail-to-town connectivity
- Outdoor culture as a driver for business recruitment and tourism

12:00 PM – Lunch in Downtown Elkin

1:30 PM – Meeting & River Access Discussion with the Yadkin Riverkeeper

Location: Elkin Town Hall or Heritage & Trails Center,

Speaker: Yadkin Riverkeeper

Focus:

- Blueway development
- Water quality and recreation
- Paddling tourism and community impacts

2:30 PM – Elkin Trail Days

Location: Elkin Town Hall or Heritage & Trails Center

Speaker: Logan Haynes

3:00 PM – Visit: Carolina Heritage Vineyard (TBD)

Location: Carolina Heritage Vineyard

Speaker: Vineyard Owner/Staff

Topics:

- Outdoor tourism’s role in business growth
- Proximity to trails
- Non-profit collaboration

4:00 PM – Tour de Vino (TBD)

Location: Carolina Heritage Vineyard

Speaker: Tour de Vino Executive Director

Topics:

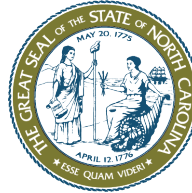
- Cycling tourism
- Outdoor tourism’s role in local business growth
- National trends

5:00 PM – Debrief Session

Facilitator: NC Outdoor Economy Office

Focus:

- Next steps and points of contact
- Opportunities for regional collaboration
- Synthesize opportunities for collaboration



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- Identify barriers to growth in the regional outdoor economy
- Discuss future projects and partnership pathways for state and local agencies, businesses, and nonprofits

5:30 PM - Break/Departure/Optional Hike – Carolina Heritage Trail – ½ mile

DAY 3 (Thursday, April 30th) — State Park Engagement with Community (optional day)

9:00 AM – Visit to Stone Mountain State Park (TBD)

Speaker: Park Superintendent, NC State Parks

Focus:

- Hiking, climbing, and heritage resources
- Visitor impact on the rural economy
- Infrastructure, staffing, and operational needs

10:00 AM - Overmountain Victory Trail (OVT)

Speaker: OVT Volunteer /Trail Lead

Focus:

- Showcase national trail significance and heritage tourism tie-ins
- Visitor impact on the rural economy

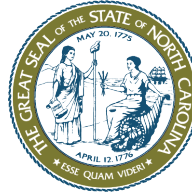
10:30 AM – Self Guided Group Hike/Park Exploration

Participation in this portion of the trip is flexible and each individual/group can participate to the extent that aligns with their schedule and depart at any point in the day as needed.

Hotel Options

Wilkesboro area:

- **Holiday Inn Express Wilkesboro**
1700 Winkler Street, Wilkesboro, North Carolina 28697 United States
https://www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/wilkesboro/wkbwr/hoteldetail?cm_mc=GoogleMaps_-_EX_-_US_-_WKBWR
State Government Rate Currently listed at \$142 per night
- **Hampton Inn Wilkesboro**
1300 S Collegiate Drive, Wilkesboro, North Carolina, 28697, USA



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https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/wkbnchx-hampton-wilkesboro/?SEO_id=GMB-AMER-HX-WKBNCHX&y_source=1_MjA4MjI0OC03MTUtbG9jYXRpb24ud2Vic2l0ZQ%3D%3D

NC State Government Official Travel rate currently available at \$110/night.

Elkin/Jonesville area:

- Hampton Inn Jonesville/Elkin

1632 North Carolina 67 Highway, Jonesville, North Carolina, 28642

https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/jnvnchx-hampton-jonesville-elkin/?SEO_id=GMB-AMER-HX-JNVNCHX&y_source=1_MjA4MjU3Ny03MTUtbG9jYXRpb24ud2Vic2l0ZQ%3D%3D

Government on Business/State Government Official Travel rate currently available at \$110/night.

- Fairfield by Marriott Inn & Suites Elkin Jonesville

628 CC Camp Road /268 Bypass, Elkin, North Carolina 28621

<https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/intje-fairfield-inn-and-suites-elkin-jonesville/overview/>

No government rate offered. Regular room rate is currently \$168 per night.

**Inclusion on this list does not imply endorsement by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, nor discrimination against similar brands, products or services not mentioned.*

DRAFT