



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

DATE
August 5, 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 – June 3, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes**
- 4. NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. PRESENTATION – Plays in the Park; Connie Dinkler, Local Playwright, and Spencer Dixon, Rowan Arts Council**
 - b. PRESENTATION – Mobile Play Program; Amy Smith, Rowan County Public Health**
 - c. PRESENTATION – Story Walk; Sierra Fitts, Rowan County Public Health**
- 5. OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. UPDATES ON PROJECTS – Special Projects Planner Joe Morris**
- 6. NEXT MEETING DATE – September 2, 2026**
- 7. ADJOURNMENT**

MINUTES
SPENCER PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 3, 2026

The Town of Spencer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board met in regular session in the Hilda B. Palmer Board Room at Spencer Town Hall on Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 10:47 a.m.

Members present were: Chair Bob Pendergrass
Vice Chair Dionne Dixon
Secretary Vivian Koontz
Member Jim Gobbel

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

Absent: Member Jack Moore and Member Phip Sparger.

Chair Pendergrass called the meeting to order once a quorum was present.

DISCUSSION – Dana Grubb Performance in Town Park; Town Manager Franzese

The Board reached consensus to move this discussion item earlier in the agenda due to Town Manager Franzese's time constraints.

Town Manager Franzese and Mitch Grubb, Dana Grubb's brother, presented information about the proposed performance by DJ Dana Grubb in Town Park. They answered questions from the Board.

Dana Grubb wished to give back to the community through a free concert for the public. Town staff had been planning a future summer music series and proposed using this performance as the first event in the pilot program this summer.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 6, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Dixon moved to approve the May 6, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes. Member Gobbel seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4 – 0.

DISCUSSION – Great Trails State (GTS) Conference Core Program Opportunity

Town Clerk Ward presented information about the Great Trails State (GTS) Conference CORE Program opportunity. She answered questions from the Board.

UPDATES ON PROJECTS

Special Projects Planner Morris provided his monthly report in writing because he could not attend the meeting.

Vice Chair Dixon presented an update to the Board regarding plans for Rowan County Creek Week and Race to the River.

ADJOURNMENT

Member Gobbel moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Dixon seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4–0. Chair Pendergrass adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

APPROVED BY:

Bob Pendergrass, Chair

ATTEST:

Anna Kanode Ward, Town Clerk

DRAFT

The Town of Spencer's Annual Outdoor Play Festival

(OR)

Plays in the Park Festival

Proposed by Connie Dinkler, a playwright, business owner and resident of Spencer, NC

Overview:

- An annual free play festival of six to seven ten-minute plays performed at The Spencer Town Park by local actors
- Easily staged plays with a limited size cast for ease of production and minimal costs
- Family-friendly plays potentially based on a different theme each year
- Food and drinks provided by local vendors
- Examples of other towns hosting similar events: The Montford Park Players in Asheville, The Public Theater's Mobile Unit in New York City, Ten Thousand Things Theater in Minneapolis, The Carolina New Works Play Festival in Charlotte, SC New Play Festival in Charlotte, Seed Art Share in Raleigh

Benefits to the Town of Spencer:

- Promote Spencer as a town that supports art and local talent, provides accessible live theatre, and opportunities for residents in Spencer and surrounding areas to be active and involved in their community
- Provide a free family-friendly event for its citizens
- Bring more attention to Spencer's new park
- Bring our community together
- Attract visitors who will patronize local businesses
- Attract actors, directors and other theatre professionals and drama enthusiasts to the town each year

Assistance offered by Dinkler:

- Providing scripts and/or writing an ad for play submissions and posting these on playwright social media
- Reading and helping to select plays for production and recruiting other readers
- Recruit actors and directors through personal theatre contacts and social media posts and/or creating advertising flyers
- Coordinate volunteers and activities such as auditions, rehearsals, securing props, distributing scripts, etc.
- Create/edit program for the festival
- Assist with creating advertising for festival

Assistance offered by Rowan Arts Council:

- Recruiting volunteers to help with the event
- Assistance in marketing the event
- Connecting with other art agencies
- Help spread calls for theater people through local theaters

Potential Funding for event

- Grass roots grant (\$2,000-\$9,000) open through September 7th
- Salisbury-Rowan Community Foundation Grant (\$2,500-\$8,000) open through Aug. 21
- Local sponsors (businesses and private individuals)
- Donations collected during intermission
- Selling advertising space in programs
- Fees from food vendors
- Selling raffle tickets for prizes donated by local artists and/or businesses