



# PARKS & RECREATION

5770 Rockfish Road, Hope Mills, NC 28348

(910) 426-4109 FAX (910) 429-3391

**Date:** Thursday, January 29, 2026

**Time:** 6:30 PM

**Prepared by:** Brenda Williams

**Location:** Thomas Campbell Oakman Chapel

**Roll Call:** Completed by Chairperson Mark Hess

**Attendees:** Commissioner Lisa Tremmel, Chairperson Mark Hess, Secretary Brenda Williams, Marie Callender, Evelyn Barnes, Dr. Terra Jordan, Dadma Consalvi, Dr. Anthony Farior, Parks & Recreation Director, Lamaro Morrison

**Absent:** Antoine McGill, Maxey Dove (excused)

**Guests:** N/A

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hess at 6:33 pm

**Review Agenda** – No additions nor revisions to agenda needed.

**Review October 27, 2025 meeting minutes:** Ms. Callendar made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Ms. Barnes seconded the motion and all were in favor. Approved unanimously.

**Welcome Commissioner Tremmel and Introductions:** Commissioner Tremmel and all attendees provided brief introductions about themselves.

## **Park Development Old Business:**

**Heritage Park Phase II-** Hope Mills Parks and Recreation will submit a Request for Proposals (RFP) from The East Group for the schematic design phase.

- The town submitted an LWCF grant in the amount of \$500,000. Staff are currently reviewing and grading the grants and will select the awardees in March 2026.
- The town will submit a second PARTF grant to fund project elements that were not included in the previous PARTF grant. Our representative with Recreation Resources recommended that we submit another PARTF grant to cover the outdoor classroom, picnic shelters, and pump house restoration.

**Town Lake Park Improvements-** The East Group facilitated a public input meeting on October 30, 2025. Survey results and public feedback identified Concept Option #3 as the preferred concept.

- The East Group completed the conceptual phase of the project and will present the refined concept to the Board on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Next steps include the completion of the master plan and initiation of the design-build phase.
- Requested Revisions to Concept Option #3
  - Omit any reference or concepts that includes a boardwalk adjacent to the bulkhead.
  - Show footprint and layout for additional restroom facilities.
  - Incorporate the gazebo layout, seat wall, swing arbors, and open pavilion from Concept Option #1.
  - Consider incorporating the playground design from Concept Option #2 in the final master plan.
  - In addition to the proposed crosswalk at the BB&T Bank parking lot, add another crosswalk at the intersection of Main Street and the exit drive to the park.
  - Refine the probably cost statement to reflect all revisions

**Side Discussions:**

- Defining the "main" Hope Mills area (Lake, Heritage Park, Main Street)
- Potential for additional raised crosswalks
- Concept of Main Street as an Artist Village
- New signage at the Lake (confirmed)

**Outdoor Basketball Courts Repairs:** The basketball court was vandalized on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The suspect, a 16-year-old female, has been identified and charged with a felony.

- Estimate damage is around \$14,000; the Town's insurance will pay \$12,000 towards the repairs and the Town will pay the \$2,000 deductible. The check will arrive next week and repairs will then begin. The insurance company will then subrogate.

**Panel Murals Update:** An Arts Council Grant was previously awarded and used for the murals project. Marie Callendar presented a photo of the completed Octopus panel mural at Golfview Park. Next, the artist will begin work on the Lake panel mural.

**Side Discussion:**

- Chairperson Mark Hess asked the HMPR Advisory Board members for ideas on how to spend their \$5000 budget allocation ahead of his presentation to the Board of Commissioners. Lamarco will confirm if any funds remain from the previous fiscal year.
- Ideas discussed:
  - ADA walking trail at the Golfview Park
  - Additional Lake signage (if needed)

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Juneteenth Liberty and Legacy Celebration 2026** Event will be held on June 20, 2026, from 12:00 PM–7:00 PM at The Hive, located adjacent to Main Street near HMPR Field Three. The celebration will be smaller than the previous year at Dirt Bag Ales due to the absence of grant funding.

- Planned elements include:
  - Two live bands
  - DJ
  - Ten food trucks
  - Vendors
- Vendor registration opens March 1, 2026

**Christmas at the Lake:** Ms. Callender asked if the Appearance Commission could take over this event. Approved by Director Lamarco.

### **Meeting Schedule Revisions:**

- **a. May 25<sup>th</sup> meeting**

Dr. Jordan made a motion to reschedule the May 25, 2026 meeting due to the holiday. New date: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 @ 6:30 pm. Dr. Farior seconded the motion and motion carried.
- **b. November & December 2026 Meetings**
  - Chairperson Hess made a motion to suspend the meetings due to the holidays. Dr. Jordan seconded the motion. Motion carrier.

**Director's Comment- Director** Lamarco thanked the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members for their continued commitment and contributions.

- Teandrea will order HMPR shirts for the Advisory Board once sizes provided

### **Athletics Reports:**

**Department Overview:** The Hope Mills Parks and Recreation Athletic Department is currently operating in the winter sports season, with basketball and cheerleading programs actively underway. Participation remains strong across all age groups, while staff continue preparing for the upcoming spring season. Multiple facilities are being utilized to support games and practices, and scheduling adjustments are ongoing due to weather-related cancellations.

**CO-ED Basketball:** The CO-ED basketball program remains the department's largest winter offering. A total of 449 youth athletes is registered across 43 teams.

Participation by age group includes:

- 6U: 72
- 8U: 100
- 10U: 111
- 12U: 93
- 14U: 41
- 17U: 32

Games are primarily played on Saturdays. Due to the high number of teams, 10U regular-season games are also scheduled during the week. Additional weekday games are used as makeups from weather cancellations.

**Girls Basketball:** The girls' basketball program has experienced significant growth this season, with 81 participants forming 9 teams. This represents more than double the participation from last season, reflecting continued interest and development in girls' athletics.

**Winter Cheerleading:** Winter cheerleading has 71 registered participants across 6 teams, supporting basketball programs throughout the season and providing additional winter recreation opportunities.

### **Facilities & Scheduling**

Games are held at:

- Hope Mills Middle School
- South View High School (Main & Auxiliary Gyms)
- Hope Mills Recreation Center

Practices are conducted at:

- TJ Robinson Center (three courts on Tuesdays and Thursdays)
- Hope Mills Middle School
- South View Middle School
- Hope Mills Recreation Center

**Spring Sports Registration:** Spring registration is open January 1 through February 28 at 11:59 PM, with 31 days remaining as of January 29. Spring is the department's most anticipated season due to baseball and softball participation.

Spring Sports Participation (Current)

- Baseball: 133 registered
- Softball: 64 registered
- Wrestling: 42 registered
- Indoor Soccer: 55 registered

Registrations are expected to continue increasing as the deadline approaches.

Overall athletic participation remains strong across winter and spring programs. Basketball continues to be strong numbers, girls' sports have shown notable growth, and spring registrations are trending positively. The department remains

focused on safe operations, efficient scheduling, and continued program development for the Hope Mills community.

### **Activity Report-December 30,2025 through January 29, 2026**

#### **January Revenue:**

- Punch Pass Sales- \$280
- Fitness Area and Open Gym- \$6006
- Rental Reservations- \$3470
- Athletics - \$10,450
- Programs/Special Events/Pre-School Programs and Classes/Youth Programs & Classes/18+ Programs & Classes/55+ Adult Programs & Classes, and Meet-up Groups
  - Total Participants- 1294
  - Resident Generated Revenue- \$11,790
  - Non-Resident Generated Revenue- \$2990
  - Total: \$14,780
- January Total: \$34,986
- November and December Revenue- \$49,420 + \$19,505= \$68,925
- Grand Total (Nov-Jan): \$103,911

#### **Programs and Special Events**

- Valentine's Day Luncheon- February 13<sup>th</sup>, 11am-1pm
  - 100 tickets available: 1 remaining
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for Cumberland, Harnett, and Lee Counties becoming Community Partners

**The Hive Hope Mills Update:** Food Truck Park and community event space opening soon. Fenced area and space for seven food trucks and will include craft fairs and family-friendly activities. Plans to obtain ABC license for beer and wine. HMPR will be coordinating events with The Hive.

**Budget request for 2026/Capital Investment Plan:** Hope Mills Parks & Recreation will present to the Board of Commissioners on February 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the 2026 -27 priorities. The budget hearings have officially begun. Advisory Board Members were asked to consider department priorities and the \$5000 allocation. In addition, Hope Mills Parks and Recreation will provide an overview of the department- Administration, Operations, Athletics, Programs, and Special Events. Invite was extended to attend the meeting and provide input, if need be.



**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Ms. Callendar to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Barnes seconded the motion and Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm

Next meeting February 23, 2026

Chairman of the Board:



Mark Hess

Date: 2-23-2026

Secretary of the Board:



Brenda Williams

Date: 2/23/2026

