

**Recreation Advisory Commission
December 10, 2025**

Call To Order:

A meeting of the Durham Recreation Advisory Commission was held on this day in person, December 10, 2025. In attendance: Cedric Burke, Girija Mahajan , Karthik Sundaramoorthy, Gregory Williams, Mike Johnston, Gabrielle Rivero and Mary Parsons

- I. Adjustments to the Agenda/Special Announcements
- II. Public Comment
 - a. No public comment
- III. RAC Community Engagement, Events & Committee Report
 - a. RAC Updates
 - i. No updates
 - b. DOST
 - i. No update
 - c. Durham Parks Foundation
 - i. DPF will be holding a Parks & Pizza event in January. Emilie will send the invite out to everyone once the date is set.
 - ii. Registration is open for the Bull City Open Pickleball Tournament on March 6-8. This tournament is a fundraiser for the Parks Foundation.
- IV. Approval of the November 12 Meeting Minutes
- V. Motioned to approve November Minutes by Mike Johnston, seconded by Gregory Williams, motion passed unanimously.
- VI. Approval of Fee Waivers
 - a. Motioned to approve Fee Waivers as presented by Mary Parsons, seconded by Cedric Burke, motion passed unanimously.
- VII. Old Business/New Business
 - a. CIP & General Fund PreList – Joy Guy & Denise Chaplick
 - i. Q: Is the \$85,000 for staffing?
 - ii. A: Staffing, equipment, and officials is included in the cost
 - iii. Q: How will this impact field access?
 - iv. A: We are looking at fields that we can bring up to playable standards and partnerships we can use for access to other field spaces.
 - v. Is there a certain amount already budgeted because these amounts are so small.
 - vi. These positions are already funded sometimes at 35 hours a week and receive the full benefits package.
 - vii. Q: Are these in priority order?
 - viii. A: Yes and no. This is in somewhat of a priority order, but this is really just a start of a conversation. City management will review these and all other department's requests and take these in consideration based on City Council's priorities and request more information on some of the requests.

- ix. Q: None of these items improve the parks; why is that?
 - x. A: Those projects are Capital Improvement projects and will be included in a CIP request.
 - xi. Q: Does the CIP project go to City Management as well?
 - xii. A: Yes, it goes through a similar process.
 - xiii. Q: Based on your experience, are there items that are easier to get funded?
 - xiv. A: It varies but if it is based on a safety issue or if we are partially funded that will impact decision making.
 - xv. Q: Are there items that you know the City Managers office does not understand the need of?
 - xvi. A: That links back to our prioritization of these requests.
 - xvii. The resident feedback during budget conversations is that residents wanted more money to go to parks and recreation for safety.
 - xxviii. Q: Had you had any feedback from the CM on the budget yet?
 - xix. A: Not yet.
 - xx. Q: How long will it take between the demolition and replacement of the playground?
 - xxi. A: The design process takes about a year, then there is the bidding and construction. The playground is not demolished until we are ready to go into construction.
 - xxii. Q: Does the design-build process benefit the construction of playgrounds?
 - xxiii. A: It is site-specific, as if there are more complicated design decisions or site needs, this process does not work well.
 - xxiv. Q: At one time, DPR requested another project manager in the budget, but that was not in the General Fund Request
 - xxv. A: We will be adding that request for this year. Most of the CIP requests we submit will be managed by General Services; we would like to have project managers in DPR as we are the face of these projects.
 - xxvi. Q: Do you lose the CIP funding for projects
 - xxvii. A: No, once CIP funding is awarded, we will have that until the project is closed out.
 - xxviii. Q: How does the City Manager respond when you have to come back for additional funds for projects?
 - xxix. A: We don't like looking like we didn't plan well but the manager wants to have project not be completed.
 - xxx. Q: Is there a funding request for purchasing property for the maintenance and operations?
 - xxxi. A: Yes, there is a separate request for land acquisition and a fund of Impact Fees that can be used for property purchasing.
- b. Investment Priority Indicator Presentation – Austin Bowman
- i. Q: Are the databases you are using being updated?
 - ii. A: All the databases are available but they are not being updated.
 - iii. A: Do you mean every parcel?

- iv. A: Yes, each parcel has been scored.
- v. Q: Is this being used to evaluate proffers?
- vi. A: Not as of yet, next steps will be for us to revise the land acceptance criteria that will come back to the RAC for a vote.
- vii. Q: Will this be publicly available?
- viii. A: Yes, once the criteria is approved, we will work with City GIS to have this added to the Mapping that is available.
- ix.

VIII. Director's Report

a. Report Sent

b. Highlights

- i. Thanks for staying late!
- ii. This past weekend we had a pickleball tournament, Santa Paws, and the Senior Holiday Party.
- iii. Rukea initiated our first-ever winter clothes drive, all clothes were taken and it was a huge success.

Meeting Adjourned 9:23am

Next RAC Meeting – Wednesday, January