



**Lumpkin County, Georgia
Parks and Recreation Department
Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

December 17th, 2025

1. Call to Order
 - a. Citizens Advisory Board Chair, Hank Haynes, called the meeting to order at 5:02pm on December 17th, 2025.
 - b. Hank Haynes, Jessica Tardonia, Shawn Boyd and Justin Davis were present.
 - c. Tim Towe, Ahmad Kamara, Scarlet Shumate, Haley Sparks and Steve Cuny were also in attendance as county staff.
2. Invocation
 - a. Hank Haynes gave the invocation.
3. Recognize Citizens or Guests
 - a. Katherine James.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion was made to approve the previous minutes by Jessica Tardonia and seconded by Hank Haynes.
 - i. Passed unanimously
5. Old/Ongoing Business
 - a. Finalize Scholarship Submission to the Board
 - i. Awaiting a letter from the park board to be submitted to the board of commissioners detailing the update of our scholarship scale to be on par with one used by Lumpkin Family Connections. The details of which are included in our previous minutes.
 1. Additionally, there will be a hardship clause that will include but is not limited to; foster care, deaths within the family, loss of wages, etc that will make applicants eligible for 100% scholarship.
 2. The letter should be received in the days following the December Park Advisory Board Meeting.
 - b. Field Renovations and Turf Project
 - i. The turf project is coming along as projected. The team is laying and lining on field 7. The "rugby" field has been laid out and work is beginning there. The advisory board has been encouraged to find a name for "rugby" field, as rugby is not accurate; looking more along the lines of multipurpose/complex/etc. The clover leaf

is on time to be completed in January, in time for softball and baseball.

- c. Review Coaching Code of Conduct
 - i. This was tabled for discussion at our January meeting.
- d. Travel Tournaments for 2026
 - i. The new pricing structure is on the January Board of Commissioners agenda. The details for this pricing structure can be found in the November meeting minutes.
- e. 2025 – 2026 Basketball Season
 - i. Advisory board member, Justin Davis, requested discussions towards the draft and evaluation procedure to be added to the January agenda; concern of “lopsided teams, coaches not showing up to drafts and players not showing up to evaluations.
 - ii. Overall, there have been good interactions with referees and officials.

6. New Business

- a. Holidays
 - i. The Community Center is opening on Sunday holidays whereas other county entities are not required to work on those holidays because of most of these offices being closed on the weekends. Staffing for the building is incredibly difficult on Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, 4th of July (because the county observes on Friday but actually falls on the Saturday).
- b. Pinetree Recreation Center Staff
 - i. There were no staff present at this month's meeting.

7. Comments/Other

- a. Parks and Recreation Manager, Tim Towe, read his resignation letter and provided notice to the Advisory Board that he will be working through December 26th.
- b. Advisory Board member, Autum Chatham, has completed her term and will be rolling off the board as of this meeting.
- c. Due to the changes going on with losing Tim, the advisory board is recommending Hank Haynes, Advisory Board Chair, to receive a continuation or additional term to maintain consistency during a time of upheaval.
- d. Katherine James, citizen in attendance, talked about having heard at the board of commissioner's meeting that we would potentially be adding more advisory board members and if that is justified, why are we not able to add on more staff members to accommodate the needs of our department.
- e. We discussed strategies for going forward and future planning; Ahmad Kamara, athletic coordinator, has been moved into the Interim Parks and Recreation Manager position for the time being.

- i. The model set by Dawson County was discussed for staffing, with a Recreation Director and then an athletic director under them and four athletic assistants.
- f. Recommendation to Board of Commissioners by the Advisory Board.
 - i. Fill the open position on the board, extend Hank's term, potential to discuss adding more positions to the board in order to make a quorum more easily due to outside time conflicts.
 - ii. Scholarship Addendum for 2026 and beyond
 - iii. Additional staff to meet the needs already in existence.
 - iv. Holidays and staffing.
- 8. Adjournment
 - a. A motion was made to adjourn at 6:28pm by Jessica Tardonia and seconded by Hank Haynes.
 - i. Passed unanimously.



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As recorded by Scarlet Shumate.

December 2025 Minutes approved by: Board Members.

Hank Haynes, Chair



Shawn Boyd

Autumn Chatham



Justin Davis



Jessica Tardonia