



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

January 19th, 2026

1. Call to Order
 - a. Citizens Advisory Board Member, Shawn Boyd, called the meeting to order at 5:00pm on January 19th, 2026.
 - b. Jessica Tardonia, Shawn Boyd and Justin Davis were present.
 - c. Ahmad Kamara, Scarlet Shumate, Haley Sparks, Jared Ray, Alan Ours, Rhett Stringer and Tucker Greene were also in attendance as county staff.
2. Invocation
 - a. Shawn Boyd 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 Justin Davis and seconded by Shawn Boyd.
 - i. Passed unanimously
5. Old/Ongoing Business
 - a. Finalize Scholarship Submission to the Board
 1. Hank Haynes and Shawn Boyd discussed changing a few words and getting final review by Ahmad before submission.
 - b. Field Renovations and Turf Project
 - i. Ahmad says the project manager states they are 90% done at the Clover Leaf, looking to get the fences done next weather depending.
 - ii. The "rugby field" incurred damage resulting from the flooding in early January and due to a silk fence that had been installed. This field should still be wrapped up by April 1st.
 - iii. The project staff will do a field training day for our staff upon completion of the project.
 - c. Review Coaching Code of Conduct
 - i. The advisory board recommended to remove all star playing requirements, as we have never instituted them previously to no issue. Once this section is removed, everything will be sent to the county attorney to final review.
 - d. Travel Tournaments for 2026

- i. There are 26 tournaments scheduled currently, from the end of February to the end of July.
 - ii. Ahmad Kamara and Steve Cuny went to the city of Dalton and met with the maintenance department to get a better understanding on tournaments, maintenance, upkeep, the way that they run things.
 - iii. The updated pricing schedule is being presented at the 01/20 BOC meeting with several updates.
 - 1. The tournament director will pay park and recreation staff representative directly, \$250, to be present and manage the tournament happenings on the day of.
 - 2. If 4 fields are rented, 1 employee will be required. If more than 4 fields, 2 employees will be required.
 - 3. The county attorney and human resources do not encourage outside/external payment.
 - a. There will be discussions here because our employees are the preferred staffing unit because they are already trained and responsible to Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation. We need the agency to pay to incentivize employees doing "extra duties".
 - 4. Tournament directors/agencies will be required to carry an insurance policy for up to \$1M to cover themselves on Lumpkin County property.
 - e. 2025 – 2026 Basketball Season
 - i. The season has gone well, with minor parent and referee issues. There have been difficulties with not being present at Pinetree Recreation Center but hopeful that as more parents get to know Jared, this will get better.
 - f. Holidays
 - i. We discussed not being staffed on holidays, specifically on Sundays i.e. Easter, Father's Day, Mother's Day.
 - 1. A data usage form was requested for these days to see if staffing makes sense.
 - ii. We also discussed following Pinetree Recreation Center, if they close early due to holidays, we will as well.
6. New Business
- a. Report from Pinetree Recreation Center Staff
 - i. Preseason has just begun, recruitment is scheduled and hiring is off to a good start. 15/60 lifeguards hired already.
 - ii. Jared is looking over the code of conduct and making policy edits as there have been some issues where they would like policy back up for suspensions.
 - iii. Pinetree plunge, fundraiser for Lumpkin County Parks and Recreation swim team, is schedule for 03/07.

- iv. There have been requests for extended hours in the summer.
- v. A new age group has been added for swim lessons, 4-5 year olds.
- b. Opening Day Parade
 - i. Ahmad put forward the idea of cancelling our opening day parade and beefing up the opening day ceremony. For 4 years, the parade has been cancelled after receiving permits and months of planning due to rain.
 - ii. The suggestion was to make the opening day ceremony similar to "Park and Rec Nights", potentially also securing bouncy houses and food trucks in the park.
- c. Advisory Board Decisions
 - i. Term Limits
 - 1. Originally there were 2 year terms with no limits. We are proposing no term limits in the future, members will naturally roll off when their kids leave the program.
 - a. The recommendation to amend the bylaws was made by Shawn Boyd.
 - 2. Members can loop in BOC members if someone is not pulling their weight on the board and needs to be removed.
 - ii. Number of Board Members
 - 1. The advisory board does not want to add more members, just fill the available slots to stay at 5 members.
 - iii. Park Board Chairman Vote
 - 1. Justin Davis nominated Shawn Boyd who was seconded by Jessica Tardonia.

7. Comments/Other

- a. Justin Davis on the draft and eval process, polled surrounding counties and found that they use a snake draft. Additionally, surrounding counties are not guaranteeing that coaches can bring in their assistant coach, as this is leading to difficulty finding volunteer coaches and being able to pick your better players unfairly. Justin also suggested that coaches had to draft their own child first. There was a suggestion for each coach to build their perfect team and then those teams are put in a hat and all of the coaches pick at random. Surrounding counties do not allow parents to say their kid "needs to ride with this kid" to be able to place kids on the same team unless they are siblings. The reasoning behind making the draft process better is that when kids are playing on unequal teams, they are not enjoying it as much (always winning or always losing) and may not want to play again in the future. A final suggestion was to number the kids and remove names to evaluate them "anonymously" and the evaluation scores will be averaged together to rate each player that way. The board members have stated that they will attend drafts in the future.

8. Adjournment

- a. A motion was made to adjourn at 6:15pm by Justin Davis and seconded by Shawn Boyd.
 - i. Passed unanimously.



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As recorded by Scarlet Shumate.

December 2025 Minutes approved by: Board Members.

Shawn Boyd, Chair

Justin Davis

Jessica Tardonia

