



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

February 11th, 2026

1. Call to Order
 - a. Citizens Advisory Board Chair, Shawn Boyd, called the meeting to order at 5:02pm on February 11th, 2026.
 - b. Jessica Tardonia, Shawn Boyd and Justin Davis were present from the advisory board members.
 - c. Ahmad Kamara, Scarlet Shumate, David Payne, Jared Ray, and Alan Ours were also in attendance as county staff.
2. Invocation
 - a. Hank Haynes gave the invocation.
3. Recognize Citizens or Guests
 - a. Katherine James and Sam Kessler.
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. A motion was made to approve the previous minutes by Jessica Tardonia and seconded by Shawn Boyd.
 - 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. The entire board plans to review the scholarship details on more time prior to submitting.
 - b. Field Renovations and Turf Project
 - i. The turf playing surfaces at the Clover Leaf are done. Fencing is still in progress to be completed at the end of this week, delays have been incurred due to inclement weather as well.
 - ii. There are so far no new pitching mounds for baseball, Ahmad is working on the quote process to order 4 more. The travel tournaments that we are hosting will help to offset that cost.
 - c. Review Coaching Code of Conduct
 - i. Edits have been made and from our previous meeting and Ahmad plans to send to County Manager and County Attorney this week.

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.
- ii. Alan, Alicia and Ahmad are making traction on payment for the LCPR employee available at the tournament, paid by the tournament agency to the county and the county to pay to the employee.
 - 1. This agreement is pending BOC approval this month.

e. 2025 – 2026 Basketball Season

- i. The regular season is officially over, we are currently in the all stars season. Our teams played in the Battle of the Best in Dawsonville, this past weekend, where every one of our teams was Champion or Runner Up.
- ii. There are tournaments ongoing this week as well with us hosting 10U Boys District, February 19th-21st. The host sites will be between Park and Rec and Pinetree. All officials will be coming through Norton and are GHSA certified.
- iii. A presence from the park board was requested at the tournament.

f. Advisory Board Decisions

- i. The decision was made to skip this section by Shawn Boyd as everything has been discussed and decided.

6. New Business

a. Report from Pinetree Recreation Center Staff

- i. Staff recruitment is ongoing with events scheduled at UNG and LCHS later this month.
- ii. The Polar Plunge is upcoming on 03/07 from 10a-12p, this is a fundraiser event that will benefit the LCPR Swim Team.

b. Spring Sports

- i. For baseball/softball, everyone has been evaluated and teams split.
 - 1. Uniforms have been ordered and practice started 02/09.
- ii. Volleyball was evaluated, we are still looking for coaches for 2nd/3rd grade. Then uniforms will be ordered.
 - 1. Due to timing, with our all stars season for basketball ongoing and volleyball season beginning, practice space may be limited and practice not begin until March.
 - 2. We are planning to do in house games for all Lumpkin v Lumpkin games to save parents from travelling to play our teams.
 - 3. The volleyball schedule should be available in two weeks, shooting for between 8 and 10 games for all teams. There were 8 last year.

- iii. Football, Cheerleading, Girl's Flag and Swim registration will open in two weeks.
 - 1. Shawn Boyd suggested vetting prior football coaches and allowing Coach Webb to have input into decisions as well based on our relationship with the middle and high school.
 - 2. The Football Jamboree is tentatively set for 08/08. Ahmad has also suggested that we would like to host the Girl's Flag Football Jamboree as well, based on how well it went last year.
 - a. The advisory board and Ahmad suggest 2 full weeks of pads practice prior to the Jamboree. Acclimatization guidelines are built off of GHSA guidelines.
 - 3. We will need to start tracking information to discuss the raising of registration rates in 2027, per BOC approval. This will need to be submitted prior to the end of the fiscal year to be included.
 - 4. For football season, all agencies are looking to split the cost of officials, instead of each host site paying. This should save us \$5k based on the amount that we hosted last year.
 - 5. We would also like to host more Tuesday games for our older age groups, to decrease the length of Saturday game days and to ensure we are treating staff and officials fairly.

7. Comments/Other

a. Sam Kessler - Disc Golf Suggestions

- i. Sam spoke on how thankful he is for the recent work that has been done in the park by David Payne and his team; erosion control, maintenance, benches having been built, etc.
- ii. He wanted to advocate for an 18 hole disc golf course at Blackburn Park to be able to instate a higher level course, we are not able to host higher level tournaments due to the current placement of holes at Yahoola Creek. There were 3000 individual players logged at YCP on udisc, showing the want for disc golf to be present.
 - 1. The park is so busy that there is a wait time or danger involved with playing certain holes as they cross over baseball/soccer fields/the creek.
 - 2. In order to host a champion level or higher level tournament, there are time limits at each hole. These time limits are complicated by public interference across the current course.
- iii. If we were able to host these tournaments, there would be a large benefit for tourism within Dahlenega.
 - 1. Sam is hoping to host some smaller tournaments this year, at YCP, to show the revenue and interest that already exists.

- iv. Tucker Greene and Alan Ours shared that currently, Blackburn Park, is a “mountain bike” park and they were not aware of interest in placing a disc golf course.
 - 1. Alan stated that the county is trying to get a master plan with all ideas on the table for Blackburn Park before deciding on anything else.
 - v. There was a suggestion by Shawn Boyd to use the Reservoir but the terrain is not conducive per David Payne and Sam Kessler.
 - vi. The maintenance on our current course is low as the grounds have been fairly neglected. Our course could use 5k of maintenance to be where it needs to be and 1k per year to maintain. A new course would be anywhere from 12-17k to complete at Blackburn Park.
 - b. Jesscia suggested a facebook post be made advertising the scholarship fund because there is a lack of knowledge on the participants part.
8. Adjournment
- a. A motion was made to adjourn at 6:28pm by Jessica Tardonia and seconded by Hank Haynes.
 - i. Passed unanimously.

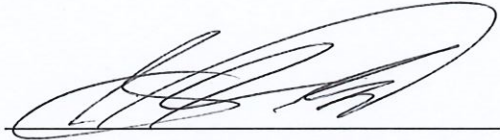


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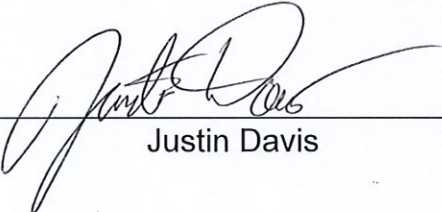
As recorded by Scarlet Shumate.

February 2026 Minutes approved by: Board Members.

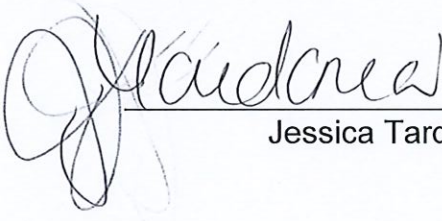
Hank Haynes, Chair



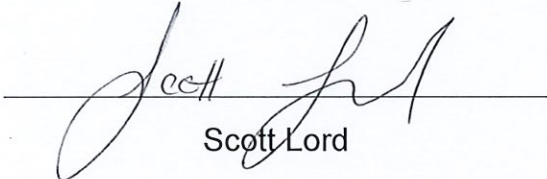
Shawn Boyd



Justin Davis



Jessica Tardonia



Scott Lord

