



**Belville Parks and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2026**

Belville Parks & Recreation Board Members Present:

Vince Matthews, Chairman
Dr. Mark Wilde-Ramsing, Member
Stacy Mitchell, Member
Brooks Rockwell, Member
Cindy Ruggiero, Member

Members Absent

None

Staff:

Athina Williams, Town Manager
Brenda Hewlett, Secretary
Greg Bannerman, Grounds Maintenance Technician
Dana Fisher, Event Coordinator

Staff Absent:

None

Items - 1 AND 2 - CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Vince Matthews called the March 11, 2026, Belville Parks & Recreation Board Meeting to order at 6:02. p.m. A quorum was present.

Item # 3 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION – Member Stacy Mitchell **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the agenda. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Item # 4– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION – Member Cindy Ruggiero **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Belville Parks and Recreation Board Regular Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2026. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Item # 5- UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. BELVILLE RIVERWALK PARK UPDATE

1. Grounds Maintenance Technician Greg Bannerman and update on The Riverwalk Extension. He related to the board that significant progress is being made with the pilings. Town Manager Athina Williams stated that this phase of construction is on tract but there are problems, but the County is allowing us continue with the work. Final construction is due in June when the funds run out. Mr. Bannerman stated that routine park clean up and grass was planted last month and should be ready by Easter. Snakes have been spotted by the alligator pond. Event Coordinator Dana Fisher asked about the crosswalk. Town Manager Athina Williams stated that it would probably start one year from now because engineering has just started on it. Ms. Williams added that new playground equipment will be purchased. Mr. Bannerman stated that there is severe erosion by the rowing club area and the parking lot. Town Manager Athina Williams stated last week Cape Fear Engineering went to the site and provided the Town with a price of \$2,500.00 to get the study done and to give us ideas on the living shoreline and what needs to be done to correct the problem. She stated that it will not be long before we have to replace the Observation Deck.

2. DATE ON STORM RECOVERY/PARK REPAIR

No storm recovery was reported.



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Item # 6- NEW BUSINESS

a. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Member Brooks Rockwell reported on his findings for an oyster roast. We will need multiple tents, entertainment and he thinks it will grow over time to be a signature event. He suggested that we advertise and have 10-week ticket sales. Seaview Crab Company was suggested as a sponsor. Single oysters will be used instead of clusters. Member Dr. Mark Wilde-Ramsing stated that the rowing club could have a rowing event. Mr. Rockwell stated we could sell 50 or 60 tickets at \$50.00a ticket. Town Manager Athina Williams stated she needs a budget. Chairman Matthews stated that we could send out information to sponsors from the past.
2. Chairman Vince Matthews informed the board about the Valentine Sweetheart Pop-up Shop. There were flowers, bouquets, cards and a variety of items for the attendees to choose from. This brings activity into the park. He stated that they are putting together profit and loss numbers. The event was well received, and discussions are in progress if doing again next year. Member Cindy Ruggiero stated that people are continuously wanting to know what is going on next in the park. Chairman Matthews stated that we need to bring life into the market area of the park.
3. Chairman Matthews reported on the Easter Egg Hunt. He stated this is the largest egg hunt ever for us. There will be a photographer, and the Easter Bunny will be Jim Bucher. There are 3 age groups of youth. They are 0-4, 5-7 and 8-12 years of age. The key Club is supposed to help with hiding the eggs and Member Mark Wilde-Ramsing has 4 rowing club members to help also. Chairman Matthews stated that we have an inflatable chicken outfit and Member Brooks Rockwell stated he would wear the chicken outfit. There will be a bubble station, and a pop-up with Easter baskets, and flowers. The event starts at 9:00 am but the egg hunt starts at 10:00am. We will have coffee, drinks and snacks for sale. Signature Wealth gave a donation for egg stuffers. There will be 10 prizes for each age group.
4. Member Dr. Mark Wilde-Ramsing reported on the drone show. He talked with Brittany Jones, an Executive with Open Sky Drone Light Shows. He related to the group that the shows do not work over water due to liabilities. This would be for the 50th Birthday Anniversary of the Town of Belville. Open sky can do over the school, and the view would be from front to back and not the side. It would last for 15 minutes. There is a minimum of \$12,000. Town Manager Athina Williams stated that UNCW did a laser light show last year. Can Open Sky do a laser light show? Member Wilde-Ramsing will investigate.

Item #7- OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

1. Chairman Matthews had nothing to report.

ITEM # 8- ADJOURNMENT

ACTION –Chairman Vince Matthews adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Minutes compiled by Brenda K. Hewlett

SIGNED:

Vince Matthews, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST: