



Belville Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2024

Belville Parks & Recreation Board Members Present:

Vince Matthews, Chairman
Lynn Gavin, Vice-Chairman
Rana LaBrunda, Member
Nancy (Nia) Moore, Alternate

Members Absent

Mark Wilde-Ramsing, Member
Cindy Ruggiero, Member

Staff:

Mike Allen, Mayor
Athina Williams, Town Manager
Jim Bucher, Director of Parks & Recreation
Ian McLeod, Event Coordinator
Brenda Hewlett, Secretary
Norwood Blanchard, Town Attorney

Staff Absent:

None

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

Chairman Vince Matthews called the December 11, 2024, Belville Parks & Recreation Board Meeting to order at 6:12 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item # 3 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION – Vice-Chairman Lynn Gavin **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the agenda. Member Nia Moore seconded the motion. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Item # 4– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION – Vice-Chairman Lynn Gavin **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Belville Parks and Recreation Board Regular Meeting Minutes from November 13, 2024. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

ITEM #5 CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Vince Matthews made a motion to go into closed session for N.C.G.S. §143-318-11 at 6:20 pm.
Chairman Vince Matthews made the motion to come back into open session at 6:50 and Vice-Chairman Lynn Gavin seconded the motion. No votes or no actions were taken.

ITEM # 6- UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Belville Riverwalk Park Update

1. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Bucher informed the board that He was waiting on H2Go to assist with the sewer so that water can be run to the bathroom, and he is doing routine maintenance.



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2. DATE ON STORM RECOVERY/PARK REPAIR

No Storm Recovery updates.

ITEM # 7 - NEW BUSINESS

a. Upcoming Event

1. Event Coordinator Ian McLeod related to the board that the Christmas Craft Festival went fairly well. We had 37 vendors sign up and 32 vendors showed up. The Christmas Village did not have as much foot traffic as they would have liked. There were many happy kids and parents. There were 23 Key Club members from North Brunswick High School. Everyone in line for the train did get to ride. Kids from Belville Elementary School were elves and sang in the workshop to entertain the crowd. Parks and Recreation Director, Jim Bucher, would like a shorter event and would like Santa to be more visible. Chairman Matthews thanked Members Rana LaBrunda and Cindy Ruggiero for decorating and Sharon Niemann and Brenda Hewlett for the decorations. Member Rana LaBrunda wanted to thank the office staff for their assistance. Member Nia Moore stated that she liked having the train ride for free and would like to see more lights. Chairman Matthews stated that Westport Lofts donated \$500.00 towards the train. Members discussed different
2. Secretary Brenda Hewlett suggested we meet quarterly to plan the events for 2025-2026. We cannot continue to plan our events for more than just a few weeks out. Chairman Vince Matthews made a motion to meet quarterly to plan our events for 2025-2026. Member Rana LaBrunda seconded the motion. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**
3. The Parks and Recreation Director, Jim Bucher, would like to set the dates for next year's events. Event Coordinator Ian McLeod stated that he recommended we approve the events now. Member Nancy Moore made a motion to approve Ian McLeod's recommendation to change the event dates now. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.** Ian went over the list of events. He explained what "Glow Night Out" was. It is a 36-hole golf event that the Golf Barn is interested in partnering with us to do. Santa will be present for the Tree Lighting on December 13, 2025, and the train will run on the same day. The Christmas Festival will take place on December 6, 2025.

Town Manager Athina Williams thanked all of the board members for their hard work in 2024 and that the train brought joy to a lot of kids.

Mayor Allen stated that there was nothing here when he came here. He stated that it is hard to get volunteers. He stated that next year was going to be a wonderful year and that he and the Board of Commissioners appreciate what we do. He stated that we put a lot of heart into what we do and that the Town of Belville will grow more. We are here to serve the citizens of Belville, and the people are happy and appreciate what we do. Mayor Allen is proud of all of the accomplishments made and that the growth pain is with traffic. He wished all a Merry Christmas and God Bless.

Chairman Vince Matthews wished everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

b. Discussion/or Recommendations to the Board of Commissioners

ITEM # 8 - OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- a. **Chairperson**
Nothing at this time.
- b. **Vice-Chairman**
Nothing at this time.
- c. **Staff And / Or the Commissioners**



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ITEM # 9 – ADJOURNMENT

ACTION – Chairman Vince Matthews adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

There were refreshments for the Christmas party and bingo was played by all and everyone had an exciting time.

Minutes compiled by Brenda K. Hewlett

SIGNED:

Vince Matthews, Chairman

ATTEST:

Brenda K. Hewlett, Secretary