



**Belville Parks and Recreation Board
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2025**

Belville Parks & Recreation Board Members Present:

Vince Matthews, Vice-Chairman
Rana LaBrunda, Member
Dr. Mark Wilde-Ramsing, Member
Brooks Rockwell, Member
Stacy Mitchell, Member

Members Absent

None

Staff:

Jim Bucher, Director of Parks & Recreation
Ian McLeod, Event Coordinator
Brenda Hewlett, Secretary

Staff Absent:

None

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

Vice-Chairman Vince Matthews called the June 11, 2025, Belville Parks & Recreation Board Meeting to order at 6:01. p.m. A quorum was present.

Vice-Chairman Vince Matthews introduced new Board members Brooks Rockwell and Stacy Mitchell to the Parks and Recreation Board.

Item # 3 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION – Member Dr. Mark Wilde-Ramsing **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the agenda. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Item # 4– APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION – Member Rana LaBrunda **MADE THE MOTION** to approve the Belville Parks and Recreation Board's Regular Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2025. **VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS.**

Item #5- PRESENTATION

Lia Hudgins, President of the UNCW Rowing Club gave the Parks and Recreation Board an overview of the Rowing Club which began in 1969. Lia has been on the Rowing Team for 3 years. The Rowing Team would like to relocate from the Marina in Wilmington which poses challenges for the team to the Belville Riverwalk Park for a safer location. They face issues with white caps and enough distance to build endurance. They have Kirk Howard as a rowing instructor. They have a co-ed crew and are supported by a strong Alumni basis. The Rowing Club would like to host Regatta's and scrimmages. They would practice in the morning and afternoons. The Rowing Club has 22 members, and they would be respectful of the park.



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Item # 6- UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. BELVILLE RIVERWALK PARK UPDATE

1. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Bucher informed the Board that he has received positive feedback from the ice cream area where the canopy was installed. The Duke Pavilion had some erosion, and he is working on the UNCW boatyard.

2. DATE ON STORM RECOVERY/PARK REPAIR

Parks and Recreation Director Jim Bucher informed the board that during the bad storms there were some limbs down.

He stated that there was a tree dying outside of the park fence and he contacted the Department of Transportation to see who was responsible for the tree.

Parks and Recreation Event and Outreach Coordinator Ian McLeod reported that Cape Fear Bread Company joined the market on June 7, 2025. The bread company will be there every other Saturday through the summer. He also stated that we have 3 spots left to rent.

Item # - NEW BUSINESS

a. UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Event and Outreach Coordinator Ian McLeod informed the board that the Memorial Day Post 12196 went well and was well attended by 50-60 people. The guest speaker was Lt. Colonel James Messer from Fayetteville, North Carolina.
2. Ian McLeod also reported that the Food Truck Rodeo was a success with 18 Food Trucks, And 20 Vendors. It was extremely hot and many of the craft and food trucks advised they Would be back for future events.
3. July 4th in the Park was discussed in reference to the downtown Wilmington Fireworks. Event and Outreach Coordinator Ian McLeod stated that there will be parking at Belville Elementary School and the Brunswick County Sheriff's Office will provide traffic control. There will be 3 food trucks on site, and we will receive a percentage of their sales.
4. Vice-Chairman Vince Matthews related to the board about the transition from the old Town Hall to the new Office at Waterford.
5. Brenda Hewlett, Secretary to the board, reported that Town Manager has an idea for a new event. It has to do with motorcycles.
6. Election of Officers was held. Vice-Chairman Vince Matthews was elected as Chairman and received 4 Votes and Member Rana LaBrunda received 1 vote for Chairman. Elections were held for Vice-Chairman and Member Rana LaBrunda received 4 votes for Vice-Chairman. and Dr. Mark Wilde-Ramsing received 1 vote for Vice-Chairman.



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Discussion/or Recommendations to the Board of Commissioners

1. Chairman Vince Matthews will send a letter to the Board of Commissioners recommending the UNCW Rowing Club to use the Belville Riverwalk Park for access to the Brunswick River for the Rowing Club.

ITEM # 8 - OTHER ITEMS AND REPORTS

- a. **Chairperson**
- b. **Vice-Chairman**
- c. **Secretary** Brenda Hewlett asked if the Board would approve a fundraiser at Highway 55 for July. Zach Matthews will provide entertainment for the event.
- d. **Event and Outreach Coordinator** Ian McLeod reported that next Friday, June 20, 2025, The movie The Little Mermaid will be shown. Ian reported the dates for the summer movies which are July 18th, August 15th and September 19th. There will be a VIP area and Stacy Mitchell has agreed to be the Concierge. Ian also thanked Parks and Recreation Director Jim Bucher for his service to the Town of Belville. Jim Bucher will retire at the end of June.
- e. Parks and Recreation Director Jim Bucher thanked everyone and stated that it has been a "Labor of Love". He stated that he loved working for the Town of Belville.
- f. **Staff And / Or the Commissioners**

ITEM # 9 – ADJOURNMENT

ACTION –Chairman Vince Matthews adjourned the meeting and a thank you cake for Jim Bucher was enjoyed by all.

Minutes compiled by Brenda K. Hewlett

SIGNED:

Vince Matthews, Chairman
ATTEST:

Brenda K. Hewlett, Secretary