

Minutes
Aiken County Recreation Commission
Aiken County Government Center
January 12th, 2026 – 3:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Mr. Byron Burkhalter (District 5)
Ms. Eleese Mathis (District 6)
Ms. Rebecca Carroll, Office Administrator, Aiken County Parks & Recreation
Mr. Colby Parnell, Director, Aiken County Parks & Recreation

ABSENT:

Ms. Martha Bailey (District 1)
Mr. Pepper Coleman (District 3)
Mr. Marvin McClendon (District 4)
Ms. Lesley Koppert (District 7)
Mr. David McGhee (District 8)
Mr. Joel Williams (At-Large)

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Parnell called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No quorum to vote to approve the minutes.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No quorum to vote to approve the agenda.

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Parnell stated there is nothing to report.

E. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT FROM STAFF

- 1. Christmas Programs & Events** - Mr. Parnell shared that the A Langley Pond Christmas event went well this year and that we are aiming to hold the next event on a Sunday to avoid competition with currently established local events. Our Christmas Assistance program was a success, aiding 48 families with 98 children.
- 2. Wagener Updates** – Sports registration was completed this past weekend for Roy Warner baseball and softball. Bingo is being held every 3rd Thursday at the Courtney Center.
- 3. Harrison-Caver / Boyd Updates** – Lacrosse registration is underway but first we are meeting with the high school athletics to coordinate a joint effort. Serenity Club is holding a Food Pantry every 3rd Saturday at Harrison Caver, including this weekend. The Southern Pickleball Academy will resume hosting their pickleball events at Harrison Caver in January. South Aiken Baptist is holding baseball and softball at Boyd Pond. Both youth and adult soccer is being held at Boyd Pond Park well. The

restrooms at Boyd Pond Park are being renovated and the pond banks are being cleared to open up more pond access for fishing and viewing.

4. Facility Renovation Update – All rentals at Harrison Caver are on hold while the office building is being renovated. We are aiming for a February re-opening.

5. Grant and Funding Updates

- a. Water Recreation Fund – Langley Fish Pier:** Mr. Parnell shared the Langley Pond Fish Pier project is moving and the pre-construction meeting was recently held. We are waiting on a timeline for materials.
- b. PARD Grant – Langley Pond Dock and Navigation Improvements:** Mr. Parnell shared that this grant is completed and all aspects that have been purchased are waiting on installation.
- c. PARD Grant – Roy Warner Basketball Court:** Mr. Parnell shared that we are still waiting on an award notification for this grant.
- d. Land and Water Conservation Fund – Boyd Amphitheater:** Mr. Parnell shared that the grant is confirmed and the information is being sent out to bid.
- e. Capital Sales Tax – Recreation Center:** Mr. Parnell shared that this project is moving along and the anticipated move-in date is April 23rd. This date is still subject to change and will impact the County’s decision to hold the regularly scheduled Summer Day Camp this year.
- f. Augusta Sports Council – Rowing Supplies:** Mr. Parnell shared that we received a grant from the Augusta Sports Council to assist in purchasing rowing supplies for the rowing program that P&R is trying to establish.

F. OLD BUSINESS

- 1. Motorboat Horsepower Limitation and Park Hours for Langley Pond:** Mr. Parnell shared that there has not been much movement on updating P&R rules and regulations due to lack of quorum at recent Recreation Commission meetings.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Park Rules

- a. Park Hours Updated:** Mr. Parnell introduced an updated set of Park Rules with established Park Hours to be implemented at all staffed parks. Park hours would be 7am – 9pm. There would be exceptions for scheduled events and programs. Pets need to be leashed and are not permitting inside gated athletic fields and courts. Mr. Parnell shared that a gate will be added at the entrance to Langley Pond Park. The goal is to have a gate at all parks and to be able to lock restrooms in the evenings. Mr. Parnell also shared that we are hiring 2 custodians to assist with restroom upkeep and to keep the facilities locked at night.
- b. Boating Rules Specified:** Mr. Parnell shared that the boat rules would limit motors to 20 MPH horsepower. If a boat is fitted with a 20+ MPH motor, the boat would need to abide by a “no-wake” policy. Water sports such as water skiing would be prohibited unless the pond is rented for a special event or program.

H. PROGRAMS AND OTHER EVENTS AND NEWS

- 1. Park Programs and News** – Mr. Parnell shared that Sales Tax 4 funds are still remaining for Boyd Pond Park and Harrison Caver so the department is determining what projects can be completed. Potential upcoming programs include rowing at Langley Pond, softball, soccer, baseball, lacrosse and disc golf. While the department may not be able to establish full leagues, sport clinics and special events may be more feasible and may be a better fit for current community needs.

I. NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday January 12th, 2026 – *now at **6:00 PM***

J. ADJOURNMENT

No quorum to vote to adjourn the meeting. Time: 3:33 pm.

Contact Information for New Director, Colby Parnell

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