



TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE Minutes

110 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina,
27306

April 14, 2026

The Mount Gilead Parks and Recreation Committee will meet Thursday, April 14, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Mount Gilead Library, 119 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina. Present were Jennifer Haywood, Bianca Haithcock, Taryn Gross, Tara Clark, Allena Ingram, Commissioner Vera Richardson, and Town Manager Barrett Brown.
Absent: Melanie St. Germain and Rick Moore

CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Haywood called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. February 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Taryn Gross made a motion to adopt the minutes from February 19, 2026 with a second from **Tara Clark**.

B. March 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Richardson made a motion to adopt the minutes from March 26, 2026 with any corrections with a second from **Tara Clark**.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Softball League

- League is underway and performing well
- 4 teams participating
- Registration fees collected; additional fees for out-of-county players
- Plans to coordinate with Troy for interleague play.

B. We Ball Sport

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ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Disc Golf Proposal

- Would require new equipment
- Estimated cost ~ \$3,200-\$4,500
- Concerns: Park maintenance needs ~ Mulch, Safety Hazards, ADA Compliance. Priority should be stabilizing current facilities first.
- Gather more cost details
- Explore grants or donations

B. Park Maintenance Concerns

- Urgent needs identified: Mulch replacement, unsafe landscape timbers, and Old playground equipment (safety concerns).
- General agreement: Maintenance is a priority alongside future expansion.

C. Dumpster Request

- Proposal to add dumpster at park due to overflow trash during events.
- Concerns on illegal dumping
- Suggestions: Lock dumpster, place near cameras, and enforce penalties for misuse.

D. Facility Fee Waiver Request

- Request to waiver/reduce field rental fee for fundraiser:
 - Local player selected for Team USA travel team.
- Board members supported the idea of waiving/reducing fees for charitable purposes.

ITEM V.

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

(Discussion)

A. Mother's Day in the Park

- May 9, 2026 from 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

B. Cleanup Day

- Same day as Mother's Day in the Park at 9:00am

C. Day in the Park

- Proposed date: June 6, 2026
- To coincide with Softball Tournament and Pool Opening. Potential additions are Bouncy Houses, Pickle-ball activities and Community vendors.

D. Pool Operations

- Jennifer proposed to extend season beyond Labor Day through the end of September.
- Pool passes created and distributed.
- Pool hours on Tuesday and Thursday are 1:00pm – 7:00pm

E. Swim Lessons

- Offered for children as young as 2 up to 12 years old.

F. National Night Out

- Scheduled for the first Tuesday in August.

Community Events

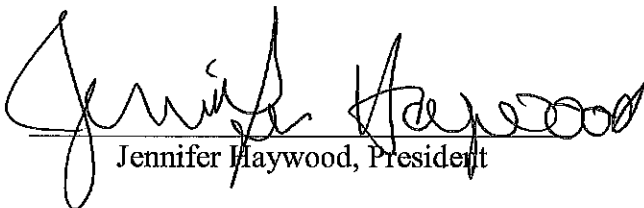
A. Highland May Day

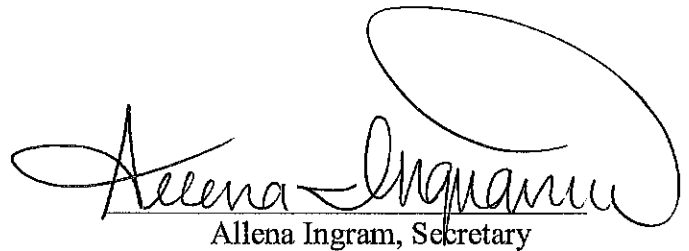
- Date: May 2, 2026

- Parade lineup at 9:00am and Event begins at 10:00am. Parks and Rec board will set up a booth to promote programs and registration.
- B. **Parks and Grounds Updates**
- **Pocket Park Project** – Moving forward with bids this spring and expected completion this year.
 - **Grounds maintenance** – Increased staffing support coming and focus on cleanliness and upkeep.
 - **Beautification Efforts** – Signage improvements planned and future landscaping strategy under review.
- C. **Additional Notes**
- Need for better coordination with merchants and community groups.
 - Improved communication and documentation accuracy
 - Interest in promotional materials for events

ITEM VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discussed **Bianca Haithcock** made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from **Taryn Gross**. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.


Jennifer Haywood, President


Allena Ingram, Secretary