



TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE Minutes

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

February 19, 2026

The Mount Gilead Parks and Recreation Committee met Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Mount Gilead Library, 119 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina. Present were Jennifer Haywood, Taryn Gross, Melanie St. Germain, Tara Clark, Bianca Haithcock, Allena Ingram and Town Manager Barrett Brown
Absent: Rick Moore, and Commissioner Vera Richardson

CALL TO ORDER

Jennifer Haywood called the meeting to order at 6:38 pm.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Melanie St. Germain made a motion to adopt the agenda with a second from **Tara Clark** Motion carries unanimously.

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. January 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Melanie St. Germain made a motion to adopt the minutes from January 15, 2026 with a second from **Taryn Gross. Taryn G.**

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A) Summer Program / School Partnership

Board discussed potential partnership with the school to align school summer programming with Parks & Rec summer offerings.

- Consideration: Scheduling overlap and potential conflicts.
- Potential opportunity: School may support pool use (practice/competitions) if contributing funding.

B) Park Cleanup Date

No confirmed cleanup date yet; board is waiting on the **Gilmont Club** schedule/coordination.

C) Boy Scout Hut

- Board confirmed approval to tear down the structure associated with a Boy Scout Hut
- Demolition pending permits/coordination.
- Action item: Coordinate a date for a final walkthrough/collection of items

D) Elementary School Gym / Auditorium Use Discussion

Board discussed potential use of the elementary gym/auditorium for community recreation

- Gym needs refurbishment; discussion of grant application for floor refurbishment.
- Concern raised: **Asbestos** risk in the auditorium, which could drive significant costs.
- Ideas included: basketball league, indoor pickle ball, broader youth sports/tutoring possibilities if facilities become available.

E) Girl Scout Hut

Board discussed renovating the “Girl Scout Hut” facility to support Parks & Rec storage and potential rental revenue

- Proposed improvements: bathrooms, flooring, door security, roof, chimney cap/cleanout, minor painting/appliances.
- Break-ins noted; goal to lock park program supplies in a secure room.
- Concept: set rental rate higher than outdoor shelter due to indoor/kitchen/restrooms; use revenue to repay renovation costs, then generate profit.

F) Lifeguard Hiring

- Board discussed ensuring lifeguard applications include clear notice/consent regarding **background checks**
- Staff to confirm application language/disclaimer

Certification location contingency:

- If town pool is not ready for certification and other municipal pools are unavailable, a **private pool** was offered as a backup site.

Pay discussion:

- Lifeguard pay referenced as starting around **\$9/hour**

G) Bands for Fall Festival

Jennifer H. asked the members of the board if they have got in touch potential performers Shawn Dykes and the Magnificence

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Softball League – Spring Season

Board discussed starting spring softball league in **April**.

- Season length referenced: **Spring ~12 weeks**
- Waiver has been approved by attorney; rosters and player limits discussed.
- Concessions/scorekeeping staffing: plan to use lifeguards and/or parents/players to assist.

B. Wee Ball” Program (Ages ~2–3)

Board discussed adding **Wee Ball** as an entry-level program for very young children (not yet T-ball age), noting it can be profitable and build the long-term baseball pipeline (Wee Ball → T-ball → Minors → Ozone → Babe Ruth).

- **Melanie St. G. made the motion to Start/bring Wee Ball program to Mount Gilead. Bianca H. second the motion. Motion carried.**

Board discussed changing locks for:

- Ballfield lights
- Concession stand
- Gates/fences

Concerns: keys held by individuals not affiliated with town operations.

Suggested solutions: single-key system, or a lockbox with changeable code for controlled access.

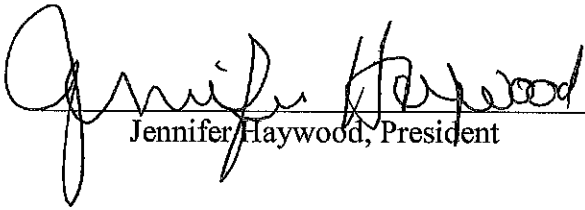
ITEM V. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

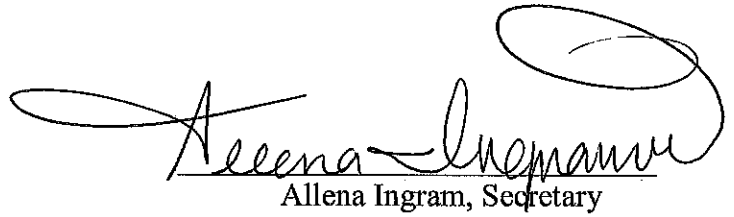
- **Melanie G. made the motion to correct the minutes to reflect that Rick Moore has been absent from the Park and Recreation Board Meeting for over a year. Taryn G. second the motion. Motion carried.**
- **Taryn Gross made a recommendation to remove Rick Moore from the Parks & Recreation Board due to nonattendance (reported as over one year). Melanie St. G. second the motion. Motion carried with four votes in favor.**
- **The request to remove Mr. Moore was not initiated by Jennifer H.**

Bianca H. raised concerns about young teens riding scooters/bikes around town around midnight, posing safety risk. **Manager B. Brown recommended to notify Mount Gilead Police to increase presence/monitoring in area.**

ITEM VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discussed **Jennifer Haywood** made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from **Bianca Haithcock**. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.


Jennifer Haywood, President


Allena Ingram, Secretary