



TOWN OF MOUNT GILEAD PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE Minutes

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

May 21, 2026

The Mount Gilead Parks and Recreation Committee met Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at Mount Gilead Library, 119 West Allenton Street, Mount Gilead, North Carolina. Present were Bianca Haithcock, Taryn Gross, Tara Clark, Melanie St. Germain, Rick Moore, Allena Ingram, and Town Manager Barrett Brown.

Absent: Commissioner Vera Richardson and Jennifer Haywood

CALL TO ORDER

Taryn Gross called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

ITEM II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. March 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Tara Clark made a motion to adopt the March 26, 2026 meeting minutes, with any necessary corrections, seconded by **Bianca Haithcock**.

B. April 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Bianca Haithcock made a motion to adopt the April 14, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by **Melanie St. Germain**.

ITEM III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Disc Golf Proposal

- Grant opportunities for a disc golf course are still being researched.
- Discussion tabled until the next meeting.

B. Park Maintenance & Safety Concerns

- New dumpster ordered and awaiting inspection.
- Entrance landscaping improvements completed at one town entrance.
- Plans to improve landscaping at the park entrance and involve summer program youth in flower planting projects.
- Safety concerns identified:
- Railroad tie spikes protruding in playground areas.

- Tree leaning over pavilion near Children's Kingdom.
- Walking track surface damaged by tree roots.
- Bridge in walking trail requires replacement.
- Playground equipment and swing set need inspection and maintenance.
- Drainage erosion near the pool area.
- Staff encouraged board members and residents to report issues with photos and locations.
- Public Works and Grounds staff will begin a more structured maintenance schedule.
- Cameras at the park are being repaired.

C. Facility Fee Waiver Request

- **Melanie St. Germain** made a motion that board members may choose either a family pool pass or one free pavilion rental. Pavilion rental benefit is non-transferable and the board member must be present during the rental. With a second from **Bianca Haithcock**.
- Rental agreements should clearly state: Failure to clean facilities may result in loss of deposit, and repeat violations may result in denial of future rentals.
- Deposit refunds will be issued on the 1st and 15th of each month following inspection.

ITEM IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Fall Festival

- **Melanie St. Germain** made a motion to contract with Next Level Band of Charlotte and Spirit of Praise (Shawn Dyke's gospel group) with a second from **Bianca Haithcock**.
- The event will start with Children's performances (gymnastics, ballet, karate/MMA demonstrations), followed by Spirit of Praise, with Next Level Band of Charlotte serving as the featured closing act.
- Rock climbing wall vendor tentatively reserved.
- Bull riding vendor contact to be confirmed.
- Bounce house vendor pricing to be obtained.
- Face painting options and pricing to be researched.
- Vendor application to be reviewed and updated.
- Vendor registration should open soon.
- Consider relocating bounce houses to a more shaded area near the library.
- Permanent numbered vendor spaces may be painted along curbs for future events.
- Possibility of bringing back a digital photo booth with town branding.

B. Albert Johnson Memorial Park

- Project expected to be completed by December.
- Gazebo/stage area will include electrical and sound hookups.

- Could serve as an information booth or performance area for future events.

ITEM V. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

A. **Pool**

- Pool renovation nearing completion.
- Awaiting final inspections and certifications.
- Opening expected soon, weather permitting.

B. **Youth Soccer**

- Summer soccer season begins June 6.
- Approximately 50 participants registered.
- Multiple communities represented.
- Scholarship program fully funded through concessions and donations.
- Community invited to attend Saturday games.

C. **Baseball/Softball Facilities**

- Clarification that children may use fields informally, provided they do not interfere with scheduled maintenance or games.
- Concerns raised regarding field condition after unscheduled use.

D. **MLB "Hit, Pitch & Run" Program**

- Opportunity discussed to host a free MLB-sponsored youth skills competition.
- Information will be distributed to the members for review.

E. **Softball Benefit Tournaments**

- Discussion was held regarding reviving benefit tournaments to support:
 - i. Youth programs
 - ii. School Supplies
 - iii. Community causes
- Examples cited of successful past tournaments generating significant donations and community support.
- Ricky Moore agreed to review schedules and propose tournament dates.

Community Events

A. **Day in the Park**

- Date: Tentative date discussed.
- Additional planning and volunteer coordination needed.

B. **Memorial Day Event**

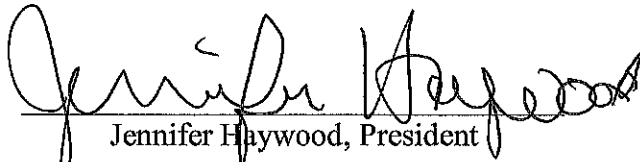
- **Scheduled for 11:00am**
- **Rain location:** Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

C. **National Night Out / Cookout with a Cop**

- Future coordination opportunities discussed with the Police Department.

ITEM VI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, **Bianca Haithcock** made a motion to adjourn the meeting with a second from **Melanie St Germain**. The motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:20pm.


Jennifer Haywood, President


Allena Ingram, Secretary

meeting ran by
Taryn Gross

Taryn Gross