

Parks and Recreation Authority Meeting

Nature Research Center
Raleigh, NC
August 23, 2024



| August 23 P&R Authority Meeting Agenda | | | | |
|--|---|-------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Time | Agenda Item | Action | Presenter | Support |
| 9:00 am | Call to open | | Margaret Newbold | |
| 9:05 am | Information from the Secretary | Information | Reid Wilson | |
| 9:15 am | Members present/absent | Information | Margaret Newbold | |
| 9:20 am | Ethics statement / recusals | Information | Margaret Newbold | |
| 9:25 am | June minutes approval | Vote | Margaret Newbold | |
| Local Government Grant Program Business | | | | |
| 9:30 am | Amount of funding available / Special Award | Information | Brian Strong | |
| 9:35 am | Grant Selection Process | Vote | Margaret Newbold | |
| 9:40 am | Overview of local government PARTF applications | Information | Vonda Martin | Application notebook |
| 10:45 am | Ballot distribution and voting instructions | Voting | Margaret Newbold | |
| 10:55 am | Recognition of special guests | | Margaret Newbold | |
| 11:00 am | Division update | Information | Brian Strong | |
| 11:15 am | Lunch Break | | | |
| 12:30 pm | Review of PARTF voting results | Information | Vonda Martin | |
| 12:45 pm | Select grant recipients | Votes | Margaret Newbold | |
| 1:30 pm | Overview of local government AP applications | Information | Vonda Martin | |
| 2:15 pm | Ballot distribution and voting instructions | Voting | Margaret Newbold | |
| 2:20 pm | Break | | | |
| 2:45 pm | Review of AP voting results | Information | Vonda Martin | Application notebook |
| 3:15 pm | Select grant recipients | Votes | Margaret Newbold | |
| Other Business | | | | |
| 4:15 pm | Final remarks and adjourn | Information | Margaret Newbold | |

Parks and Recreation Authority Meeting

Gorges State Park

June 7, 2024 – DRAFT MINUTES

Draft Minutes

Call to open

Chairperson Margaret Newbold called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

Roll Call for Attendance

Roll call for the Parks and Recreation Authority (PRA):

Ms. Margaret Newbold, present

Mr. Doug Auer, present

Ms. Amber Brown, present

Ms. Beth Heile, present

Mr. Lewis Ledford, present

Ms. Cynthia Tart, present

Ethics Statement

Chairperson Newbold then read the Ethics Statement:

In accordance with The State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearances of conflict. Does any board member have any known conflict of interest or appearance of conflict with respect to any matters coming before the board today? If so, please identify the conflict or appearance of conflict and refrain from any undue participation in the particular matter involved. We ask members who recuse themselves do not participate in the discussion or voting of said matter.

Recusals

No Authority Members have any known conflicts of interest.

Minutes Review

Chairperson Newbold asked for the board members to review and approve three sets of meeting minutes, January 12, 2024; March 22, 2024; and April 10, 2024.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Cynthia Tart. The motion was seconded by Beth Heile.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Margaret Newbold, aye.

Mr. Doug Auer, aye.

Ms. Amber Brown, aye.

Ms. Beth Heile, aye.

Mr. Lewis Ledford, aye.

Ms. Cynthia Tart, aye.

The motion passed.

Parks and Recreation Authority Meeting

Gorges State Park

June 7, 2024 – DRAFT MINUTES

Local Grants Update

Vonda Martin shared updates on the local grants program, including:

- Outreach efforts by the Grants team
- Application lists for PARTF and AP
- Timeline for Notebooks to be mailed to the Board
- A second round of Accessible Parks funding will be opened in September 2024. The current round received approximately \$8.8 million in requests, and there is \$12.5 million available.
- PARTF celebration on June 11th

Anticipated Funding Available for FY24-25

Director Brian Strong shared the FY24-25 funding for PARTF.

| PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST FUND | |
|---|---------------------|
| Revenue and Distribution | |
| FY 2024-2025 | |
| June 4, 2024 | |
| REVENUE | Dollars |
| Recurring Appropriation | \$28,000,000 |
| Non-recurring Appropriation | |
| Approximate license plate revenue | \$1,500,000 |
| Prior year license plate adjustment (+/-) | |
| Total revenue available | \$29,500,000 |
| DISTRIBUTION | |
| State Share (65%) | \$18,599,750 |
| Local Government Share (30%) | \$8,584,500 |
| Coastal Access Share (5%) | \$1,475,000 |
| Administrative Expenses (up to 3%) | \$840,750 |
| Total statutory distribution | \$29,500,000 |
| STATE SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE | |
| State Share of Revenue | \$18,599,750 |
| Remaining from Previous Fiscal Year Admin | \$0 |
| Total State Share Available | \$18,599,750 |
| State Park Subshare (96%) | \$17,855,760 |
| DuPont Recreational State Forest Subshare (4%) | \$743,990 |
| Total | \$17,855,760 |
| SP projects completed underbudget/canceled from previous FY | \$0 |
| Total State Park share | \$17,855,760 |
| Total State Park share encumbered in FY 22/23 | \$0 |
| Remaining State Park Balance for FY23-24 | \$17,855,760 |
| LOCAL SHARE FUNDS AVAILABLE | |
| Local Grant Share of Revenue | \$8,584,500 |
| Funds available from returned PARTF Grants | \$884,028 |
| Remaining from Previous Fiscal Year | \$98,347 |
| Total local share | \$9,566,875 |
| Allocated to Local Projects this FY | \$0 |
| COASTAL ACCESS SHARE AVAILABLE | |
| COASTAL ACCESS SHARE | |
| Coastal Access Share of Revenue | \$1,475,000 |

Parks and Recreation Authority Meeting

Gorges State Park

June 7, 2024 – DRAFT MINUTES

State Parks Requests

Director Strong presented the following funding requests for the Board for consideration.

State Parks System Land Acquisition Projects For Fiscal Year 2024-2025

| Park Unit | Acres | PARTF Request | Match | Total | Comments |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| Haw River SP | 61 | \$788,500 | \$788,500 | \$1,577,000 | Tract on the Haw River; protects high quality upland and wetland forests |
| Mayo River SP | 283 | \$781,850 | \$781,850 | \$1,563,700 | 3 tracts on the Mayo River; protects water quality and exceptional aquatic habitat |
| Mount Jefferson SNA | 32 | \$112,500 | \$112,500 | \$225,000 | Provides critical connectivity between Paddy Mountain and Mount Jefferson for the Northern Peaks State Trail |
| New River SP | 66 | \$430,000 | \$430,000 | \$860,000 | Protects a tract along the New River with a waterfall (Nana Falls) |
| Raven Rock SP | 273 | \$3,076,650 | \$3,076,650 | \$6,153,300 | Allows DPR to establish an additional trail system at the north end of Raven Rock State Park |
| Stone Mountain SP | 387 | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 | \$2,000,000 | 3 tracts adjacent to the Rendezvous Mountain section of Stone Mountain State Park; allows more extensive trail systems to be built |
| TOTAL | 1,102 | \$6,189,500 | \$6,189,500 | \$12,379,000 | |

Parks and Recreation Authority Meeting

Gorges State Park

June 7, 2024 – DRAFT MINUTES

State Parks System Capital Projects For Fiscal Year 2024-2025

1) LOWER HAW STATE NATURAL AREA

Project: Public Use Area

Location: Chatham County

Funds Requested: \$300,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project includes: Development of the Lower Haw Public Access in Chatham County. Project will include a new toilet building, improved car parking lots, site utilities, and trail to river for canoe/kayak put in/takeout area.

CURRENT PROJECT FUNDING STATUS

\$ 203,250 Connect Bond

\$ 1,592,274 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Previously Funded

\$ 300,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund

\$ 2,095,524 Total Project Cost

PROJECT STATUS

Project is currently approved to bid.

OPERATING EXPENSES

The long-term management of this project is proposed for Chatham County. If this is not realized, the Division will develop a proposal for additional staffing for the project.

2) MERCHANTS MILLPOND STATE PARK

Project: Campground Improvements

Location: Gates County

Funds Requested: \$3,180,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project includes demolition of old campground shower house and replace with new shower house, improve (9) existing tent site to RV sites with full hookup (water, sewer, electric), (3) new camper cabins, (7) tent site improvements, new campsite amenities, campground road improvements, wastewater system improvements. Bring facilities to meet the state building codes and ADA compliance requirements.

CURRENT PROJECT FUNDING STATUS

\$ 870,750 Connect Bond

\$ 3,180,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Request

\$ 4,050,750 Total Project Cost

PROJECT STATUS

Project is currently in design and is projected to bid in September 2024.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Operating expenses for this project have already been requested.

Parks and Recreation Authority Meeting

Gorges State Park

June 7, 2024 – DRAFT MINUTES

3) WILLIAM B. UMSTEAD STATE PARK

Project: Crabtree Creed Multiuse Trail Bridge Replacement

Location: Wake County

Funds Requested: \$1,600,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

William B. Umstead State Park-Crabtree Creek Multiuse Trail Bridge Replacement

Project includes demolition of existing bridge and replace with new single lane bridge that is part of the park's multiuse trail system which is used by hikers, bikers, and equestrian users. This bridge will also be rated for vehicle access pertaining to maintenance and emergency response. This trail is one of the most heavily used trails in the division. The current bridge was determined unsafe to use by DOT and has been taken out of service.

CURRENT PROJECT FUNDING STATUS

\$ 1,600,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Request

\$ 1,600,000 Total Project Cost

PROJECT STATUS

DPR is currently working with NC DOT on design options.

OPERATING EXPENSES

N/A

There was discussion amongst the board members about the land acquisition projects.

A motion to approve both the land acquisition projects and the capital projects was made by Beth Heile. The motion was seconded by Lewis Ledford.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Margaret Newbold, aye.

Mr. Doug Auer, aye.

Ms. Amber Brown, aye.

Ms. Beth Heile, aye.

Mr. Lewis Ledford, aye.

Ms. Cynthia Tart, aye.

The motion passed.

Director Strong presented an additional planning request to the Board for consideration. This was presented at the April 10, 2024, special virtual meeting, and due to concerns over the April meeting being publicly noticed appropriately, the request was presented a second time.

1) STATEWIDE

Parks and Recreation Authority Meeting

Gorges State Park

June 7, 2024 – DRAFT MINUTES

Project: Develop Update Parks for a New Century Plan

Location: Statewide

Funds Requested: \$250,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Statewide Review of Current and Potential New Parks to Grow the NC State Park System

Executive Order 305 set specific goals for protection and restoration of North Carolina's critical natural and working lands by 2040. These goals include the permanent protection of 1 million new acres of natural lands, restoration of 1 million acres of forest land and planting of 1 million trees. The Division will take an active role in identifying future needs for additional parkland as well as potential locations for local parks as part of this effort. This effort will expand on previous funding obtained from PARTF to provide a comprehensive roadmap for state and local parks efforts in this endeavor. This project will involve an extensive geographical information system (GIS) analysis as well as coordination efforts with other land protection agencies throughout the state. Additionally, the Division will use this process to set priorities for the future to identify locations where open space and parklands are absent.

CURRENT PROJECT FUNDING STATUS

\$100,000 Previously Requested Funding

\$250,000 Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Request

\$350,000 Total Project Cost

PROJECT STATUS

Partial funding was obtained from 2022-2023 funding. Additional funds are necessary due to change in project scope.

A motion to approve the planning request was made by Doug Auer. The motion was seconded by Amber Brown.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Margaret Newbold, aye.

Mr. Doug Auer, aye.

Ms. Amber Brown, aye.

Ms. Beth Heile, aye.

Mr. Lewis Ledford, aye.

Ms. Cynthia Tart, aye.

The motion passed.

Break for Lunch from 12:00-12:30pm.

Parks and Recreation Authority Meeting

Gorges State Park

June 7, 2024 – DRAFT MINUTES

Division Updates

Director Strong shared division updates, including:

- Division's Water Safety Outreach
- Park Events
- Morrow Mountain Re-Opening in May
- Ranger Commissioning in May
- Fort Macon 100th Anniversary Celebration
- Acquisition Updates
- Legislative Updates
- Division staffing updates

Final Remarks and Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Beth Heile. The motion was seconded by Doug Auer.

A roll call vote was taken:

Ms. Margaret Newbold, aye.

Mr. Doug Auer, aye.

Ms. Amber Brown, aye.

Ms. Beth Heile, aye.

Mr. Lewis Ledford, aye.

Ms. Cynthia Tart, aye.

The motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.