



City of King City Parks and Recreation Advisory
Committee Meeting

6:00 PM Thursday, January 08, 2026

Parks and Rec Community Building,
Parlor Room, 107 White Road

MINUTES

I. Call to order

Chairman Garry Merritt called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Invocation

The invocation was given by Board Member Chris Chunn.

Attendance:

Present: Chairman Garry Merritt; Peggy Slate; Steve Roberson; Chris Chunn; Diane Irvine; Betty Essick; City Engineer Ben Marion; Community Relations Coordinator Tiffany George

Absent: Thomas Newsom III

Motion: Peggy Slate moved to excuse Thomas Newsom III from the meeting. The motion was seconded by Steve Roberson. Motion carried 5-0

III. Public Comment:

Public comment opened by Chairman Garry Merritt. No one signed up to speak. Public comment was closed.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes (11.13.2025):

Motion: Garry Merritt made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the November 13th, 2025, meeting. Peggy Slate seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

V. Organization:

A. Election of Chairman

Chairman Garry Merritt opened the floor for nominations for Chairman.

Motion: Motion made by Diane Irvine for Garry Merritt to continue as chairman. Chris Chunn seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

B. Election for Vice Chairman

Chairman Garry Merritt opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chair.

Motion: Motion made by Peggy Slate for Chris Chunn to serve as vice chair. Motion seconded by Diane Irvine. Motion carried 5-0.

VI. Old Business

A. Revised King Little League Contract.

- City Engineer Ben Marion reviewed the revised contract for King Little League for the upcoming 2026 season. Members reviewed and had no changes to make.
- **B. Revised Stokes Soccer Contract**
- City Engineer Ben Marion reviewed the revised contract for Stokes Soccer League for the upcoming 2026 season. Members reviewed and had no changes to make.

VII. New Business

A. New Member

- New member, Beverly Essick, was present and introduced to the group.

B. FY-26-27 Budget Request Items

Rec Acres

- Repairing “Everyone’s Playground” flooring by either replacing areas of concern with playground mulch and sidewalk paths for handicap access features in the playground or replacing/patching and resurfacing the playground matting. Tiffany George to get a quote for both options.
- Install “No dogs on ball fields” signage for each ball field.

Central Park

- Security cameras
- Replace bridge railing & deck boards
- Replace aged Signage
- Install more dog waste stations
- Replace the asphalt pathway
- Replace/ repair grills at picnic shelters

North Hampton Green Way

- Replace bench
- Landscaping on the path

VIII. Update on Parks

- Ben Marion let the board know that a new employee has been hired for the Parks Department. Andrew Newsome will help at both parks, but mainly take care of Central Park.
- Overflow parking at Recreation Acres was delayed due to the weather. It should start in the coming weeks.
- Park signs are going to be priced to replace those with old information or those that are aging due to weather.
- The contractor for the Shelton Forest Development on White Road has offered to donate dirt from land clearing to be used at the dog park. The contractor will deliver and grade the dirt. The City will need to remove fencing, benches, and obstacles prior to grading and replace them afterward. The Board agreed with this arrangement.

IX. Items of general concern

City Engineer Ben Marion made two recommendations to the board as follows:

1. The playground at Central Park needs to be updated
2. To have an engineer (outside of the city) to help develop a long-term “master plan” for changes at recreation acres (sports fields, basketball courts, football field). Chairman Garry Merritt mentioned thinking about a student with NC State or Steven Jones. Ben will look into both options and discuss them once he has collected more information.

X. **Adjournment**

Motion: Peggy Slate made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Diane Irvin.
Motion carried 5-0.

{Seal}

Approved:

Garry Merritt, Chairman

Attested:

Tiffany George, Secretary