

River Bend Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2025 – 6:30 PM
Municipal Building

Board Members Present: Diana Pantall, Victoria Stuppy

Board Members Absent: Beth Stokes

Others Present: Jeff Weaver, Barbara Maurer

Victoria Stuppy called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM with a quorum present. There were no changes to the agenda.

Victoria Stuppy motioned to approve the minutes of September 5, 2025. Diana Pantall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Weaver informed P&R that a member of the Council had been inquiring about future event plans with the River Bend Country Club.

Victoria Stuppy reviewed the financials and noted P&R was on track. She further noted that P&R would continue to use their dedicated Facebook page as the main advertising vehicle, along with the Town's online and email resources. And that Next Door is also a way to reach many new residents who are not on Facebook.

The Board discussed September events—Bingo Night and Community Yard Sale—both of which were highly successful. Bingo Night had the largest crowd of the year and having residents sign themselves up ensured no one was left off the yard sale map/directory. Kristie Nobles was invaluable in bringing this to fruition. She also suggested, and Victoria Stuppy shared, that the Board might consider moving the 2026 Yard Sale to coincide with the Shredding Event as that draws people from other cities/towns which might increase awareness.

The Board will meet at 4 PM to set up for NNO and acrylic pens have been ordered for rock painting. The location to set up will be provided by NNO organizers this week.

The face painter has been secured for the Fall Festival with a deposit. Board members reviewed two options for the obstacle course and approved the spending. The Board is waiting for final commitment from the Rhems Fire Department. A logistics meeting was proposed for Monday, October 13 to finalize plans.

Victoria Stuppy shared a proposal from Krysten Howard to work with the RBPD to host a Truck, Tent and Treat Event (name TBD) on Halloween night. This would be a way to further engage the Police Department with the community. It would require minimal work from the PD and P&R, primarily just hosting and advertising the event, as residents would be responsible for setting up their own tents/trucks. A food truck could also be engaged. The Board approved moving forward with the partnership.

The Board discussed the lackluster attendance at the last Veterans Day event and, overall, for the past few years. Jeff Weaver shared that many former Military members would rather that people do something for veterans versus attending events and listening to speeches. Board members will reach out to a few organizations, including March for the 22, to see how they can commemorate the day in a more meaningful way and will cancel plans for a formal event. Other events honoring the Military were also discussed including Memorial Day and Wreaths Across America in December.

Victoria Stuppy proposed that P&R pay for the main offerings at Friendsgiving and members will fill in sides, etc., along with residents. The Board approved the expense.

The Board discussed hosting food trucks midday on Fridays. Diana Pantall suggested the same day, once a month. Date to be determined based on food trucks available.

Diana Pantall provided an update on the Saturday Fun Run and noted that after two-and-a-half months, attendance was still low and spotty. The Board discussed hosting a Pub Run instead as that has been very popular in Downtown New Bern. The Board agreed to make October 4 the last Fun Run and premiering a Pub Run beginning/ending at Attitudes on Wednesday, October 15 at 5:30 PM.

There being no further business, Victoria Stuppy moved to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Pantall. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.



Diana Pantall, Vice Chair