

River Bend Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 5, 2025
Municipal Building

Board Members Present: Diana Pantall, Beth Stokes, Victoria Stuppy

Board Members Absent: None

Others Present: Barbara Mauer

Victoria Stuppy called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm with a quorum present.

Victoria Stuppy motioned to add two items to the agenda that will be discussed at the end of the meeting. (1) Disc Golf & (2) 4th of July 2026. Beth Stokes seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Victoria Stuppy motioned to approve the minutes of 10/1/2025. Diane Pantall seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Jeff Weaver was not present so there were no updates from Town Council

Victoria Stuppy reported that the Board has spent \$1347 YTD. We are \$278 under projected spending. We spent \$932 on the fall festival, \$1000 was budgeted for this event.

- Victoria will get pricing for a tent with Parks & Recreation printed on canopy.
- Diana will price shirts for us to wear to our events. Victoria will send samples of logos to choose from.

Victoria Stuppy continues to promote our events on the Parks & Rec Facebook page & Next Door. We have 405 followers on Facebook. Victoria is also still posting our events on the New Bern page. Victoria suggested boosting our post on Facebook for the Tree Lighting on Facebook. This is approximately \$2 a day to boost the post. Beth Stokes & Diana Pantall approved the expense.

Past Events Review –

- NNO – The community seems to have enjoyed the event. The kids had a great time at our booth. We discussed that it would be nice to add something for the adults to

enjoy, maybe a raffle. The advisory board would like to suggest that the obstacle course where the golf cart is driven be moved away from the AB area.

- Fall Festival – The pumpkin painting, cotton candy, popcorn and obstacle course were big hits this year. The turnout for this event was lower than expected. Next year we would like to schedule this earlier in September and not the same day that the fall festival is occurring in downtown New Bern.
- Trunk or Tent – There were only a couple of residents that chose to set up for this event. RHEMS Fire Department & the River Bend Police Department were there giving out candy. RHEMS gave out 175 goodie bags. Most people coming into River Bend stopped here first before going to houses. Next year, we would like to have a haunted house in the community building. Something quick to walk through and have candy to hand out at the end. We would like to get the older children in the community involved.

Future Events –

- A. Friendsgiving – 11/22/2025 – 12pm – 2pm – Victoria Stuppy started advertising on November 3. This event is posted in the River Bend E-News, Town Website and a flyers posted at Town Hall. Beth and Diana will sign up for what they are going to bring. If we don't have 20-25 people signed up by 11/17, the event will be canceled.
- B. Holiday Tree Lighting – 12/5, 6pm – 8pm – The Red Caboose Community Library will be participating again this year and will be gifting children's books. Last year's Santa & Mrs. Claus have volunteered again this year, as has, Annie Knowler. The Parks & Rec Advisory Board members will meet at the Storage unit on 11/15 at 10am to inventory what we have for Christmas decorating and crafts. Diana Pantall will get prices on a Christmas projector and Christmas mural. We need to figure out a better way to do the hot chocolate. Beth Stokes will talk to Kathy Banks at Attitudes regarding the cost of purchasing hot chocolate from them. We will need to purchase a new dispenser or borrow one from the town. We discussed having cookies to decorate this year. In the past, this was a fun craft for the residents. Food trucks were also discussed and members will follow up. We need better chairs for Santa & Mrs. Claus. Diana Pantall said she has a couple chairs that we could borrow for that night. She will send a picture of them to Victoria and Beth. Victoria Stuppy will speak with Delane about having the speaker outside for the tree lighting. Also, for Public Works to set out the tables and chairs in the large room for the event.

- C. Tinsel Train – 12/19/2025 – 5:30pm – 9pm (CAC Trolley Scheduled) – Victoria Stuppy will post an advertisement to see how much interest we get. The trollies are scheduled by CAC.
- D. Red Cross Blood Drive – 1/24/2026, 10am – 3pm – The Red Cross does not have the staff to do a blood drive after work hours on weekdays.
- E. Bingo Night – We will discuss after the holidays at the January meeting.

Agenda Additional Items:

Disc Golf – Joe Baes reached out to Victoria Stuppy about setting up a demo and overview of how to play disc golf. If people show interest, Mr. Baes is willing to set up time to go to a local disc golf course. He would like to introduce people to the game and see if there is interest in the community. Mr. Baes has all the equipment that is needed to play the game. Victoria motioned to add the event in November. The motion carried unanimously.

4th of July 2026 – 2026 will be the 250th anniversary. Delane Jackson spoke to Victoria Stuppy requesting ideas for the celebration. We will discuss after the holidays.

Public Comments: None

Victoria Stuppy motioned to adjourn. Diana Pantall seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Beth Stokes".

Beth Stokes, Secretary