Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
January 13, 2026

Report Out

- Director's Report – **Allison Dains**
  - Joseph Guseman is our new Parks Division Planner! Congratulations to Joseph promotion. This is a well-earned step forward that reflects Joseph's outstanding contributions, technical expertise, and commitment to collaboration across our department and the broader community.
  - The now vacant Project Manager job description is being updated to reflect the Department's current needs and will be posted soon.
  - Progress continues on the purchase of Deaverview Mountain (scheduled for mid-year 2026). *Reminder, while the purchase is scheduled for this year, it is not scheduled to open to the public until FY29.*
  - Budget Process FY27
    - Fee Schedule and Budget Entry due 1/26/26

- Programming & Events Update – **Liz Hoekwater**
  - Festival of Lights
    - Estimated 21,000 attendees during the event.
    - Raised over $14,000 for Special Olympics Buncombe County
  - Events and Programming
    - CORE – Sandy Mush Community Center through February, Thursdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, will move back to Tuesdays in March.
    - 55+ Club will start
    - Birding will start March 7th (first and last Saturdays of the month)
    - Fishing Club starts March 12th
    - Winter Warm-Up March 14th
    - Dog Eggstravaganza March 28th
    - Spring Family Campout April 11th
    - April 25th Spring Festival
    - Kid's Fishing Tournament May 2nd
  - Special Olympics
    - Alpine Ski and Snowboard season has started. Southeast Winter Games Feb. 8-10 at App Ski Mtn.
    - Swimming will start at the end of the month
    - Cheerleading is ongoing.
    - Basketball did half-time exhibition at UNCA game on 12/31. Next exhibition is February 21st at 2pm.

        - Polar Plunge February 28th
        - Spring Games- May 7th at TC Roberson; May 21st at AC Reynolds
        - SONC Summer Games May 29th-31st

- Park Projects and Parks Status Update – **Joseph Guseman**
    - Design for the new Restroom at Fisherman Trail has begun
    - Design for the rebuild of Alexander River Park and Karpen Fields will be starting soon
    - Construction on the artificial turf fields for 3,4, and 5 at Buncombe County sports park has started and is scheduled to be completed in late spring 2026.
    - Charles D. Owen Park – Survey and Environmental assessment work has been completed. County staff will meet with design team this month to discuss future rebuild options. Public input will be taking place early this year. Keep an eye out in our newsletter and socials for when events are taking place.
    - There are new picnic tables at Walnut Island Park and Ledges Whitewater Park! These along with new trashcans, help replace what we lost during Helene.