



**York County
Health & Environmental Protection
Committee
Minutes
September 18, 2025**

Regular Meeting

**Eastern Maintenance Facility
177 Central Carolina Parkway
Fort Mill, South Carolina**

5:30 PM

Call to Order

Chairman, Andy Litten

Order of Business

1. Committee to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2025 Health & Environmental Protection Committee meeting.

Motion to approve

Passed **Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0**

MOVANT: Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr

SECOND: Debi Cloninger

AYES: Andy Litten, Debi Cloninger, Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

RECUSED: None

2. Discussion regarding Parks Masterplan recommendations.

- Develop a short and long-term plan for existing and future parks acquisition and improvement (11-12-24)
 - Land acquisition in District 4 (8-18-25)

Assistant County Manager, Tom Couch, and Parks and Recreation Director, Katherine Jones presented information on the Parks Masterplan recommendations.

Strategic Goal: Premier Parks

- Develop and offer premier parks and recreation opportunities that enhance residents' quality of life by providing a wide variety of safe, unique, and highly desired recreational experiences, while also protecting the county's natural assets and heritage.
 - Investment and Funding
 - Land protection and acquisition
 - Partnerships

- Visitor Experience

Strategic Plan Recommendations

- Monitor annexations (defines service area and collaborations)
- Catch up to keep up...and then get ahead...
 - Focus on Catawba Bend
 - Plan amenities and access to thistle and Woodend
- Develop a trail system (Trail Mix)
- Land acquisition (preservation and park development)
- Develop community/neighborhood scale parks

Staff reviewed the status of current parks; Allison Creek Park, BLW Woodend Park, BLW Thistle Park, BLW Goat Farm, Catawba Bend Preserve, Ebenezer Park, Field Day Park, Nanny's Mountain, Veteran's Park, and Worth Mountain.

Katherine Jones, Director of Parks and Recreation, reviewed the opportunities for the County:

Investment and Funding

- Develop a 10-year capital improvements plan
- Link a parks long term plan to the mandated comprehensive plan in Fy 27 by adding a parks and recreation element.
- Trails Plan RFP on the market

Partnerships

- Parks foundation (private donations and corporate sponsorship)

Land Protection and Acquisition

- Opportunities in District 4
- Western York and elsewhere
- York forever

Visitor Experience

- Work with Management and Council to build operational capacity matching CIP and Comp plan

Recommended Next Steps

- Work with PDS, Engineering and Economic Development to develop Trails Plan and a 10-year CIP framework for the FY 27 budget cycle.
- Work with PDS to link Parks Element to Comp Plan beginning in FY 27
- Revisit foundation establishment (begin now)
- Utilize CIP, foundation and York County Forever to strategize land acquisition for future parks and trails
- Develop annual operations plans that sync up with available funding

After a general discussion of upcoming projects and when the parks can be accessible to the public, a motion was made by Council member Watts Huckabee and seconded by Council member Debi Cloninger to direct staff to present to the committee the scope of a long-term parks and recreation masterplan for consideration.

Passed	Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0
MOVANT:	Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
SECOND:	Debi Cloninger
AYES:	Andy Litten, Debi Cloninger, Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	
RECUSED:	None

3. York County Forever Presentation

Trish DeHond, Open Space Planner, and Diane Dil, Planning Manager, presented an overall view and history of York County Forever. Ms. DeHond explained that the original goal of Nation Ford Land Trust, Palmetto Conservation Foundation and York County Forever was to conserve 10,000 acres by 2010.

Ms. DeHond also reviewed the success stories: 41 completed land conservation projects since 1998 totaling 11,700 acres.

Ms. DeHond also explained that York County Forever's Strategic Plan includes enhancing partnerships and educating the public, engaging and educating landowners, and promoting sustainability and resilience.

The Committee members agree that York County Forever is a great value to the County.

A motion was made by Council member Watts Huckabee and seconded by Council member Andy Litten to request staff to educate the committee on a York County Foundation at the next committee meeting. (Council member Cloninger was absent for this vote as she had to leave the meeting early).

Passed	Yes 2, No 0, Abstained 0
MOVANT:	Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
SECOND:	Andy Litten

AYES:	Andy Litten, Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Debi Cloninger
RECUSED:	None

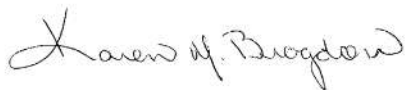
Executive Session

Matters for consideration following Executive Session

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn

Passed	Yes 2, No 0, Abstained 0
MOVANT:	Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
SECOND:	Andy Litten
AYES:	Andy Litten, Ansel Watts Huckabee Sr
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Debi Cloninger
RECUSED:	None



Karen M. Brogdon, Clerk to Council