



HORRY COUNTY GOVERNMENT PARKS AND OPEN SPACE BOARD AGENDA

Tuesday, April 29, 2025, 12:00 noon
Government and Justice Center Multipurpose Room B
1301 Second Ave, Conway, SC 29526

1. *Call to Order*

2. *Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation*

3. *Introduction of Board and Staff Members*

4. *Minutes*

- Approval of January 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes

5. *Public Input*

6. *Discussion*

- Staff Member Updates
 - POSB By-Laws
 - New Ordinance
 - Carolina Forest Wildfires
 - Parks Superintendent
 - Playgrounds
 - Aynor
 - James R Frazier
 - Racepath (relocation)
 - Green Sea (PARD Grant)
- Properties
 - Loris
 - Green Sea (old vs new)
 - New Parks and Rec Office
 - 707 Property (Bob)
- Projects
 - Socastee Recreation Park
 - Aynor Recreation Center
 - Huger
 - Carolina Forest
 - Dog Bluff Park
 - Boat Landing Improvements
 - Trail Developments
 - Parks Community Boardwalk
 - South Strand Pickleball Courts

- Board Member Updates

7. *Announcements*

- Next Keep Horry County Beautiful Meeting – May 27, 2025 at 11:30am in Multipurpose Room B of the Government & Justice Center, Conway

- Next Vereen Memorial Historical Gardens Committee – May 15, 2025 at 11am in the Conference Room at C.B. Berry Community Center in Little River
- Next Parks and Open Space Board Meeting – August 5, 2025 at 12:00pm in Multipurpose Room B of the Government and Justice Center

8. Adjourn

HORRY COUNTY PARKS AND OPEN SPACE BOARD 2025

CHAIR

1st Term Expires: 6/30/27
District #6

Robert 'Bob' Ziegler
632 Grand Cypress Way Murrells
Inlet, SC 29576
e-mail: robertziegler@aol.com

Home: 843-215-8978
Cell: 917-734-5814

VICE CHAIR

2nd Term Expires: 6/30/25
District #1

Suzanne Pritchard
904 11th Ave N,
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
e-mail: lspritchard@gmail.com

Office: 843-280-5572
Cell: 843-455-7699

1st Term Expires: 6/30/28
District #3

William Bucci
732 Tarpon Court
Myrtle Beach, Sc 29579
e-mail: WB2357@aol.com

Cell: 908-209-7089

Term Expires: 6/30/27
District #2

Home:

Term Expires: 6/30/28
District #5

Royce 'Sonny' Parrish Jr.
6535 Valene Ct
Myrtle Beach, SC 29572
e-mail: sparrish0719@yahoo.com

Home: 843-267-4739
Cell: 704-315-4821

Term Expires 6/30/27
District #4

VACANT

Home:
Office:

1st Term Expires: 6/30/27
District #7

Pete Wilkes
128 Creel Street
Conway, SC 29527
e-mail: wilkeslife@aol.com

Home: 843-457-8125

2nd Term Expires:
6/30/24 District #8

VACANT

Home: 828-773-2246
Office: 843-349-6611

2nd Term Expires: 6/30/25
District #9

Thomas Mezzapelle
236 Cox Lane
4401 Hwy 544
Longs, SC 29568
e-email: autoxdrvrr@gmail.com

Home: 843-602-1419
Cell: 843-349-2180

1st Term Expires: 6/30/2025
District #10

Jamie Bellamy
4401 HWY 544
Loris, SC 29569
e-mail: Mccray.Jamie@aol.com

Home: 843-602-0229

Term Expires: 6/30/27
District #11

Richard Carroll
2525 Duck Harbour Drive Aynor,
SC 29511
e-mail: richardc@abbank.com

Cell: 843-421-4034



PARKS AND OPEN SPACE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE 2025

Board Meetings are typically held in the Multi-purpose Room of the Government & Justice Center located at 1301 Second Avenue in Conway, unless otherwise noted. All interested citizens are invited to attend.

| Date | Time | Event |
|-------------------|----------------|--|
| January 21, 2025 | 12:00 – 1:00PM | Board Meeting – Multipurpose Room B Government & Justice Center |
| April 29, 2025 | 12:00 – 1:00PM | Board Meeting – Multipurpose Room B Government & Justice Center |
| August 5, 2025 | 12:00 – 1:00PM | Board Meeting – Multipurpose Room B Government & Justice Center |
| November 12, 2025 | 12:00 – 1:00PM | Board Meeting – Multipurpose Room B Government & Justice Center |

There are no meetings scheduled for February, March, May, June, July, September, October, and December. If needed, additional meetings can be scheduled.

*According to the Bylaws, the Board must hold *at least* four (4) Meetings annually. Meetings may be changed to a Workshop.

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) Horry County Parks & Open Space
) Parks & Open Space Board Meeting
COUNTY OF HORRY) Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board met on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at the James R Frazier Community Center in Bucksport, SC 29527. The following Parks & Open Space Board members were present:

Robert Ziegler, Royce “Sonny” Parrish Jr., Jamie Bellamy, and Suzanne Pritchard

Staff present: Director, Ray Dunham; Deputy Director, Robert Freeman; Supervisor III, Michaela LeMay, and Deputy Director, Nicole Herrera

Board members absent: Sara Diaz, Thomas Mezzapelle,, and Richard Carroll.

The following visitors attended: Alice Davenport and Donna Donaleski

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Ziegler called the meeting to order at 12:09pm. Chairman Ziegler led the Pledge of Allegiance and gave the invocation.

INTRODUCTION OF BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

Robert Ziegler started introductions that ended with staff members.

PUBLIC INPUT

Alice Davenport came to the meeting to address a community concern. She lives in the Tuscany development by the 501 and 31 intersection. She stated that there were no parks close to where she lives. She enjoys walking and biking and does not feel that there are opportunities near her now. Alice has spoken with her neighbors and members of her church and there is concern that the parks are not meeting the needs of the growing population in this area.

Royce “Sonny” Parrish Jr. asked Director Dunham if there was any County land in the area she was speaking about. Director Dunham stated that there are plans for parks in this area, as well as the expansion of the Carolina Forest Recreation Center grounds and parks. Director Dunham stated that in the master plan for Caroline Forest, there is a walking trail to be built around the entirety of the property. He also gave a bit of a time frame that once the master plan is finalized, it needs to go through approval and then to permitting. This process can take a year to a year and a half. Miss Davenport stated that it would be nice to bump the trail to the top of that plan to be implemented because it seems the least costly and the area is seriously lacking. Royce “Sonny” Parrish Jr. stated that the Huger Park is also walkable and asked Director Dunham if that area connected to the Carolina Forest Property. Director Dunham stated that it does but needs a little building to create and easier path. He stated that in the next year and a half it is the goal to start these plans.

Miss Davenport thanked the Board and staff for their time and stated she was finished. Donna was there to observe and support Alice.

MINUTE

Approval of November 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Ziegler introduced the agenda item and asked the Board to take a moment to review the minutes from the previous meeting. He called for a motion to approve all meeting minutes. Suzanne Pritchard motioned for approval and Royce “Sonny” Parrish Jr. seconded the motion. ***The motion to approve the Meeting Minutes from the November 12, 2024 Parks and Open Space Board carried unanimously.***

STAFF UPDATES

Michaela LeMay introduced the November meeting date for the Board. Previously scheduled for November 11, Veteran’s day, she gave the Board two dates to move the meeting to. Suzanne motioned for the meeting to be moved to November 12, and Royce “Sonny” Parrish Jr. seconded the motion. ***The motion to approve the November 12, 2025 meeting date change for the Parks and Open Space Board carried unanimously.***

Michaela LeMay introduced the next item on the agenda, Keep Horry County Beautiful applicants. There were four applications received since the last meeting but only three spots on the Committee were open. Board members took time to discuss the applicants and review their applications. Chairman Ziegler proposed that the Board approve the last three applicants based on experience. Royce “Sonny” Parrish Jr. made a motion to approve Edward Skowysz, Cara Schildtknecht, and Mat “Manny” Torres and Jamie Bellamy seconded the motion. ***The motion to appoint the three new applicants to the Keep Horry County Beautiful Committee passed unanimously.*** They chose to pass on Adam Smith at this time.

Michaela LeMay introduced the next item on the agenda regarding Keep Horry County Beautiful spending. Beautify Carolina Forest has requested that a surplus of trash pickers be purchased for their volunteer group. In order to be proactive, Ms LeMay wanted to get pre-approval from the Parks and Open Space Board since the next meeting was not until April 2025. She proposed a quote for sixty pickers at \$500 from the Keep Horry County Beautiful account. Chairman Ziegler called for a motion to approve the spending not to exceed \$550. Royce “Sonny” Parrish Jr. motioned for approval and Jamie Bellamy seconded. ***The motion to approve the purchase of trash pickers not to exceed \$550 passed unanimously.***

Director Dunham took to navigating to the next item on the agenda. The Michael Morris Graham playground is substantially complete and Parks and Recreation is just waiting on the fence, netting, and handicap parking spaces to be finished. The plan is to do a dedication of the playground in a month or two and Parks and Recreation will invite the Board to that event.

He moved to the Sand Dunes Archery because the scheduled expansion of Socastee Recreation Park will impact their current use of the area. Director Dunham stated they are having meetings to make them alert but also to find other space. Once the expansion begins, they will not be able to practice at Socastee for safety reasons. Staff is working to complete and update agreement upon the solution.

Additionally, at Socastee, Coastal FFA leases three fields and had a major donation of security cameras to be installed after consultation with the legal department. They installed and manage the cameras, Parks and Recreation has no tie to that but they will allow us to utilize them if there are vandalizing issues. Coastal FFA also understands that the camera footage will fall under Freedom of Information Act and they will need to comply if those requests come in. Chairman Ziegler stated that his experience with cameras is that once the public is informed they are there and working, vandalization and park issues tends to go down. Director Dunham stated that, that is a goal.

Director Dunham invited Deputy Director Freeman to speak about Rosewood and Race Path. Deputy Director Freeman stated that Race Path is a park in Myrtle Beach and the previous owner passed away and the new owners do not want to renew the lease with the County. As of August 2025, we will be removing the playground at Race Path and transferring it to Rosewood Boat Landing. Jamie Bellamy asked what was in that neighbor and would they benefit. Director Dunham stated it is homes and complexes and that Parks and Recreation want to grow this landing into a passive park.

Director Dunham moved onto the Cochran building on the agenda. The County is looking to sell this building so Parks and Recreation has started to actively plan to move out of it. This requires a lot of space, given grounds team and all of the storage use that building houses. Current plan is to utilize space at Public Works Department and get connex boxes to store things. For the future, the plan is to house everything together. Currently, Parks and Recreation is looking at a warehouse with seven acres for sale.

Lastly, Director Dunham spoke of the Horry County Race Series. It was in the works to pass these off to another company but that fell through and Parks and Recreation will be keeping them. Director Dunham invited Deputy Director Herrera to speak on the races. Deputy Director Herrera stated that Ms LeMay would be the contact person for the races and that we were working to revamp them in the 2025 year. Jamie Bellamy asked if we did a race in Conway. Director Dunham stated that we try to not encroach because they already have their own races. Ms Bellamy stated that there was just such good energy and momentum with the public right now, it might be beneficial to look into. Chairman Ziegler suggested a possible partnership for a joint race. Director Dunham stated that it was a possibility but they typically host on County property to avoid permits.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

Chairman Ziegler invited Board members to update about their Districts. Jamie Bellamy, District 10, stated that since her appointment to the Parks and Open Space Board, she is asked frequently about Simpson Creek Park and how the public should make reservations now that the Board has dissolved. Director Dunham stated that three years ago the Board that did the reservations dissolved and that the County now handled those. He stated that she could tell the public to call the main office or North Strand Recreation Center to reserve that park.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Keep Horry County Beautiful Meeting – March 18, 2025 at 11:30 am in Multipurpose Room B of the Government and Justice Building in Conway

Next Vereen Memorial Historical Gardens Meeting – March 20, 2025 at 9 am in the Conference Room at CB Berry Community Center in Little River

Next Parks and Open Space Board Meeting- April 29, 2025 at 12 pm in Multipurpose Room B of the Government and Justice Building in Conway

ADJOURN

With no further input, Chairman Robert Ziegler called for a motion to end the meeting, Sonny Parrish motioned for the meeting to adjourn and Richard Carroll seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:57pm.

**BY-LAWS
OF THE HORRY COUNTY
PARKS AND OPEN SPACE BOARD**

ARTICLE I
Name and Address

The name and address of this board is Horry County Parks and Open Space Board, 2830 Oak Street, Conway, SC 29526.

ARTICLE II
Purpose and Duties

The Horry County Parks and Open Space Board shall have the following purposes and duties:

Section I. To promote the preservation and connectivity of open space, scenic areas and vistas, greenways, squares, or village greens.

Section II. To promote the protection and conservation of environmental or natural resources.

Section III. To promote the expansion of quality open space for a wide range of recreational opportunities including playgrounds, playfields, plazas, parks, mini-parks, picnic areas, bicycle or hiking trails, or golf courses for all county residents.

Section IV. To promote tourism emphasizing open space, recreational sites, and natural resources of Horry County.

Section V. To promote education, awareness, and research relating to environmental and natural resources.

Section VI. To assist in coordinating activities with other local and regional organizations, businesses and governmental agencies active in the preservation of open space, recreational sites, and natural resources;

Section VII. To prepare and submit to the Horry County Council a parks and open space plan as a comprehensive guide for areas of open space, significant environmental and natural resources, and recreational sites to be acquired, leased, preserved, protected, maintained, or developed through county funds, such as the Horry County Open Space Fund.

Section VIII. To provide for the establishment, appointment, structure and regular conduct of meetings of a Keep Horry County Beautiful (KHCB) Committee, as a certified affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, Inc.

COUNTY OF HORRY

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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ORDINANCE NO: 32-2025

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE VI, SECTION 2-75 OF THE HORRY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AMEND THE LENGTH OF TERMS FOR MEMBERS OF SOME HORRY COUNTY BOARDS AND PROVIDE FOR THE SAME.

WHEREAS, South Carolina Law and the Horry County Code of Ordinances provide for the establishment of various agencies, boards, commissions, and authorities ("Boards"); and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission, Library Board of Trustees, Museum Board of Trustees, Board of Assessment Appeals, and Parks and Open Space Board members are appointed by the resident council member of each district; and

WHEREAS, County Council desires for the members of those Boards terms to reflect the terms of the resident council member;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the power and authority granted to the Horry County Council by the Constitution of the State of South Carolina and by the South Carolina General Assembly, the following is hereby ordained and enacted:

1. **AMENDMENT OF SECTION 2-75 OF ARTICLE VI OF CHAPTER 2 OF THE HORRY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES.** Section 2-75 (Membership and attendance, officers, procedures and other matters pertaining to boards and commission of county government) of the Horry County Code of ordinances is hereby enacted to read as follows. All text ~~**bolded and stricken through**~~ shall be deleted and all text shown **underlined and bolded** shall be added.

Sec. 2-75. Membership and attendance, officers, procedures and other matters pertaining to boards and commissions of county government.

(a) *Membership and attendance.*

- (1) *Composition, terms, removal.* Unless otherwise specified by county ordinance or otherwise required by state or federal law or regulation, all boards and commissions of county government shall consist of eleven (11) members who are qualified resident electors of the eleven (11) county council districts. Provided, however, that the county council may establish by ordinance and appoint ex officio nonvoting members as it deems appropriate.

- a. **(i) Members of boards and commissions appointed by the resident council member shall be appointed to serve four-year terms. All terms shall commence July first following the general election of a full term for the respective resident council member and end June thirtieth. Members shall continue to serve after their term has expired until the earlier of their successor appointed and qualified or the end of the calendar year. Members shall be permitted to serve two (2) consecutive terms on any board or commission upon appointment as prescribed in subparagraph b, below. A member can be reappointed to the board or commission after the initial two (2) consecutive terms as stated above only if the reappointment**

is separated by a vacancy from the board or commission membership for at least two (2) calendar years. For reappointment purposes, a partial term resulting from an original appointment (to fill out the term of a member leaving for any reason) shall be considered as a full term if the period of appointment for the individual replacing the original member is two (2) years or more. If less than two (2) years, the individual may serve out that term, plus two (2) full terms before vacating the office. All current members' terms shall expire according to original appointment and any new terms shall be partial terms to the June following the general election of a full term for the respective resident council member.

(ii) Members **not appointed by resident council district** shall be appointed to serve staggered four-year terms (except that terms necessary to implement this division may be established by resolution of county council). All terms shall commence July first and end June thirtieth of the appropriate year. Members shall not continue to serve after their term has expired. Members shall be permitted to serve two (2) consecutive terms on any board or commission upon appointment as prescribed in subparagraph b, below. A member can be reappointed to the board or commission after the initial two (2) consecutive terms as stated above only if the reappointment is separated by a vacancy from the board or commission membership for at least two (2) calendar years. For reappointment purposes, a partial term resulting from an original appointment (to fill out the term of a member leaving for any reason) shall be considered as a full term if the period of appointment for the individual replacing the original member is two (2) years or more. If less than two (2) years, the individual may serve out that term, plus two (2) full terms before vacating the office.

2. **AMENDMENT OF SECTION 19-36 OF ARTICLE III OF CHAPTER 19 OF THE HORRY COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES.** Section 19-36 (Membership; terms of office) of the Horry County Code of Ordinances is hereby amended to read as follows. All text ~~**bolded and stricken through**~~ shall be deleted and all text shown **underlined and bolded** shall be added.

Sec. 19-36. – Membership; terms of office.

The board of assessment appeals shall consist of twelve (12) members; eleven (11) members who are qualified resident electors of the eleven (11) county council districts and one (1) at large member. The at large member shall be nominated by the chairman of county council and the other members shall be nominated by the resident county council member with the consent of and appointment by the county council. Members must reside in the district of the nominating council member and shall be appointed to serve staggered four-year terms. **All terms shall commence July first following the general election of a full term for the respective resident council member or chairman of county council and end June thirtieth.** ~~All terms commence July 1 and end June 30 of year.~~ Members may continue to serve beyond their terms until their successors take office. Any vacancy in membership shall be filled for the unexpired term in the manner prescribed for the original appointment. County council shall have the authority to remove any member for cause. Such cause may include, but is not limited to, abuse of office, misconduct, breach of ethical standards set forth by applicable state law, or excessive absenteeism from duly called meetings.

3. **SEVERABILITY.** If any part of this ordinance shall be deemed or found to conflict with a provision of the South Carolina law, or other pre-emptive legal principle, then that part shall be deemed ineffective, but the remaining parts of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.
4. **CONFLICT WITH PRECEDING ORDINANCE.** If any part of this ordinance shall conflict with a provision of a preceding ordinance of Horry County, then that provision of the preceding ordinance shall be deemed repealed and no longer in effect.
5. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance will be effective upon passage of third reading.

AND IT IS SO ORDAINED this 15th day of April, 2025.

HORRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Johnny Gardner, Chairman

Jenna L. Dukes, District 1
Bill Howard, District 2
Dennis DiSabato, District 3
Gary Loftus, District 4
Tyler Servant, District 5
Cam Crawford, District 6

Tom Anderson, District 7
Michael Masciarelli, District 8
R. Mark Causey, District 9
Danny Hardee, District 10
Al Allen, District 11

Attest:

Ashley C. Carroll, Clerk to Council

Date of First Reading: 3/18/25
Date of Second Reading: 4/1/25
Date of Public Hearing: 4/1/25
Date of Third Reading: 4/15/25