

CITY OF NEW CASTLE PARK BOARD MINUTES

JUNE 1, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Patty Broyles, John Henderson, Dave Nantz, Toddy Myers and Cheryl York

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Greg York, Park Superintendent, Mike Bergum and Mayor's Assistant Kendra Blankenship

Mayor York opened the meeting at 5:30pm.

Patty moved to approve the minutes from the former meeting. Second by Dave. Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS

The summer season is officially underway! Baker Pool opened on May 26 and has experienced great crowds to begin the season. Pool closures, weather updates, and important announcements will continue to be communicated through our Facebook page. We are looking forward to a safe, successful, and enjoyable summer for our entire community.

This year's Baker Pool staff includes 30 certified lifeguards, 9 concession stand workers, and 3 managers. These dedicated employees have completed training and preparation to provide a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable experience for all pool patrons throughout the summer.

The Parks and Recreation Department appreciates the commitment and professionalism of our seasonal staff and looks forward to another outstanding pool season serving the residents of New Castle and Henry County.

Baker Pool Carnival Success

The annual Baker Pool Carnival was a tremendous success, raising approximately \$4,900. These funds have been deposited into the Pool Non-Reverting Fund and will help support future pool improvements and operations.

Special Thank You: Mayor Greg York for his support of this event and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Trojan Lane Improvement Project

A brief update and discussion regarding Trojan Lane improvements and the positive impact the project has had on the appearance and gateway entrance to our community.

Summer Activities and Opportunities in Our Parks

Our goal is simple: "**Make Everyone Feel Safe and Welcome**"

The following amenities and programs are available throughout our park system this summer:

1. **Playgrounds**
 - Existing playgrounds

- New playground equipment coming soon
 - Restroom availability discussion
 - 2. **Monday Night Bluegrass Music**
 - Baker Park
 - 3. **Disc Golf**
 - Wednesday evening activities
 - The Rock and The Pebble courses
 - 4. **Baker Pool and Splash Pad**
 - Hours of operation
 - Summer programming
 - 5. **New Castle Action Park**
 - Hours of operation
 - Restroom availability
 - 6. **Shelter Rentals**
 - Baker Park Shelters #1 and #2
 - Osborne Park Shelter
 - Rental process and contracts
 - Contact: Kendra
 - 7. **Cornhole**
 - Bring your own bags
 - Casual community play
 - 8. **Walking Trails and Paths**
 - Opportunities for fitness and recreation
 - 9. **Shuffleboard Club**
 - Participation opportunities
 - 10. **Pickleball Plaza**
 - A tremendous success this summer
 - Seven courts available
 - Popular with both the young and young-at-heart
 - Restroom access available
 - 11. **Basketball Courts**
 - Open community play
 - 12. **Dog Parks**
 - Rules and amenities
 - 13. **Horseshoe Club**
 - Organized play opportunities
 - Restroom access available
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Community Appreciation

A special thank you to everyone in our community who helps keep our parks clean, safe, and welcoming. We also want to recognize and thank our Parks and Recreation employees. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment make our facilities and programs possible. We are truly blessed to have such an outstanding team serving our community

MAYOR'S REPORT

None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Baker Park Pickleball Extravaganza 2026

"Get in the Game! Stay in the Game!"

Event Overview

The Baker Park Pickleball Extravaganza is designed to harness the excitement surrounding pickleball and build upon the tremendous use of the Baker Park Pickleball Plaza. This community-focused festival will provide players of all ages and abilities the opportunity to learn, improve, compete, and connect while promoting the positive culture, sportsmanship, and ethics of the game.

More than just a clinic, this event will create a festive atmosphere that celebrates pickleball while providing instruction, education, entertainment, and community engagement.

Event Information

Date: Saturday, July 11, 2026

Location: Baker Park Pickleball Plaza and Peckinpaugh Way

Cost: FREE

Theme: *Get in the Game! Stay in the Game!*

Purpose

The purpose of the Baker Park Pickleball Extravaganza is to:

- Introduce new players to the game.
- Develop player skills at all levels.
- Promote proper court etiquette and sportsmanship.
- Educate players on court rotation and public play expectations.
- Create a welcoming pickleball community.
- Showcase Baker Park as a premier pickleball destination.
- Encourage healthy lifestyles through recreation and fitness.

Event Name Options

- Baker Park Pickleball Extravaganza
 - Be Alert Learn to Play Pickleball Festival
 - Baker Park Pickleball Summer Festival
 - Dink, Learn & Play Festival
 - Get in the Game Pickleball Festival
 - Pickleball Palooza at Baker Park
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Skill Development Sessions

Each session will be led by certified instructors and designed specifically for player ability levels.

Learn to Play - Beginner Level

Time: 2.5 Hours

Topics Include:

- Rules of the game
- Court layout
- Basic strokes
- Scoring
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- Serving fundamentals
- Safety and etiquette
- Introductory gameplay

Play to Learn - Intermediate Level

Time: 2.5 Hours

Topics Include:

- Shot selection
- Positioning
- Transition zone play
- Communication with partners
- Court awareness
- Strategy and consistency drills
- Guided gameplay

Train and Play - Advanced Level

Time: 2.5 Hours

Topics Include:

- Advanced strategy
 - Third-shot drops
 - Dinking and resets
 - Speed-ups and counters
 - Tournament concepts
 - Competitive drills
 - Challenge play
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Festival Features

Community Court Zone

Open play opportunities throughout the day allowing participants to put newly learned skills into action.

Ethics & Sportsmanship Station

Educational discussions and demonstrations covering:

- Respect for opponents
- Court rotation procedures
- "Next Up" philosophy
- Inclusion of new players
- Positive communication
- Public court expectations

Vendor Village

Local businesses and pickleball-related vendors will provide product demonstrations, giveaways, and information.

Music & Entertainment

A live DJ will provide music throughout the event, creating an energetic and welcoming atmosphere.

Expanded Court Area

Additional temporary courts will be established along Peckinpough Way to accommodate increased participation and maximize playing opportunities.

Giveaways & Door Prizes

Participants will have opportunities to win pickleball equipment, apparel, gift certificates, and sponsor-provided prizes.

Potential Sponsors

- Slapp Life
 - Vair
 - Dinkr App
 - First Serve Racquet Club
 - Local Restaurants
 - Local Financial Institutions
 - Local Healthcare Providers
 - Sporting Goods Businesses
 - Community Partners
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Event Leadership

Program Organizer -John Rodriguez

- PPR Certified Coach
- Vair Certified Rater
- Slapp Life Street Program Director

- First Serve Racquet Club Pickleball
Director
- Cage Pickleball Coach and Trainer
- Owner, Be Alert Training

Event Director - Mike Bergum

Superintendent, New Castle Parks and Recreation Department

Marketing Message

Whether you're picking up a paddle for the first time or looking to sharpen your competitive game, the Baker Park Pickleball Extravaganza has something for everyone.

Join hundreds of players for a day of learning, playing, music, vendors, giveaways, and community spirit as Baker Park celebrates one of America's fastest-growing sports.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

None

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:00PM, NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 6, 2026.