

Draft

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING** April 16, 2012

**ALEXANDER COUNTY
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

PRESENT: Ryan Mayberry, Chairman
James “Burkie” Jennings, Vice-Chairman
Judy M. Moose
W. Darrell Robertson
Larry Yoder

STAFF: Rick French, County Manager
David Icenhour, Economic Development Director
Sylvia Turnmire, Human Resources Director

The Alexander County Board of Commissioners held a special called meeting on Monday, April 16, 2012 in the County Administration Building downstairs conference room, Taylorsville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mayberry called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

ROCKY FACE MOUNTAIN RECREATIONAL AREA RULES & REGULATIONS

David Icenhour, Economic Development Director, presented proposed rules and regulations for the Rocky Face Mountain Recreational Area as follows, noting that these rules mirrored those in place for other NC State Parks:

- Hours of Operation – 8 AM to 8 PM April 1st to September 30th, 8 AM to 7 PM October 1st to November 3rd, 8 AM to 5 PM November 4th to February 28th, 8 AM to 7 PM all month long in March. Park will be open 360 days a year weather permitting and will close a total of 5 days during New Years, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.
- Hikers must stay on designated trails and within hiking areas to avoid destruction of habitat.
- Climbing and rappelling are allowed only with a daily permit. Youth under age 18 must have adult supervision.

- Removal, destruction, or injury of any tree, flower, artifact, fern, shrub, rock, or other plant, mineral, animal, or insect in the park is prohibited unless with an approved collection permit for scientific or educational purposes.
- Camping is not allowed anywhere in the park. Fires are only permitted in designated cooking areas.
- Horses are prohibited from all areas.
- Motorized vehicles are permitted only in the designated parking areas and not permitted on park trails, excluding emergency response. No bicycles are permitted on hiking trails or on paved ADA trail.
- Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet at all times and must have current rabies vaccination.
- Possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in the park.
- The possession or use of firearms, fireworks, cap pistols, air guns, bows and arrows, slingshots, or lethal missiles are prohibited.
- Photography or video production for commercial purposes is prohibited except under a special activity permit of \$35.
- The picnic shelter may be reserved for special events for a 4-hour block of time at a fee of \$15 and \$5 for each additional hour.

Mr. Icenhour also distributed draft versions of the park kiosk sign and map.

Changes suggested by Board members included prohibiting tobacco use in the park and requiring a signature on the daily permit application for climbing and rappelling.

Commissioner Robertson made a motion to approve the rules and regulations for the Rocky Face Mountain Recreational Area to include the changes discussed. Chairman Mayberry seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

A grand opening is planned for June but the park will actually open in late April or early May.

Commissioner Robertson suggested placing the rules on the County website and on the PEG Channel. Mr. Icenhour advised that a special website specifically for the park was in the works.

It was noted that the NC Department of Transportation would require \$200 per sign per side of the road per year for park signs with a limit of 5 miles distance from the park. Commissioner Yoder felt the Board should write a letter stating that the County would pay the sign fee if the State would pay for space occupied by Probation and Parole (the State recently mandated that counties provide this space at no cost). Commissioners Jennings and Moose agreed.

PERSONNEL POLICY AMENDMENTS

Sylvia Turnmire, Human Resources Director, reviewed several amendments to the Personnel Policy, explaining that these changes were necessary due to changes in state law, insurance policies, and other causes. In addition to definition updates, general grammar revisions, and clean-up of the policy, the following amendments were discussed:

- Employment of immediate family members is subject to the County Manager's approval under Article V Section 7.
- Addition of grandchildren to Child Involvement Leave under Article VI Section 25.
- Provisions for consulting with County Manager for disciplinary action under Article X Section 6.
- Additions to information open to the public under Article XII Section 2.
- Several changes to Article XIV including definitions, testing methods changed from blood to urine, reporting timelines, employee requested test results, and last chance clause.

Commissioner Jennings made a motion to approve the amendments to the Personnel Policy. Commissioner Moose seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Commissioner Robertson made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 PM. Commissioner Yoder seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Ryan Mayberry, Chairman

Jamie M. Starnes, Clerk to the Board