

**MINUTES OF THE HARMON FIELD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING**  
**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

Chairman Warren Watson called the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors meeting to order at 6:00 PM at the Tryon Town Hall, McCown Room.

**Board Members Present (Tuesday, January 6, 2026):** Chairman Warren Watson; Secretary-Treasurer Rick Covil; Steve Sloan; Stephen Nelon; and Jessica Glasscock

**Board Members Absent (Tuesday, January 6, 2026):** None

**Staff Present (Tuesday, January 6, 2026):** Brad Gordon, Park Superintendent; and Meg Rogers, Town Secretary/Cashier,

**Board Members Present (Thursday, January 15, 2026):** Chairman Warren Watson; Secretary-Treasurer Rick Covil; Steve Sloan; Stephen Nelon; and Jessica Glasscock

**Board Members Absent (Thursday, January 15, 2026):** None

**Staff Present (Thursday, January 15, 2026):** Jim Fatland, Tryon Town Manager; Brad Gordon, Park Superintendent; and Meg Rogers, Town Secretary/Cashier

**Motion for Addition to Agenda**

Nelon made a motion to add agenda item 3-a to discuss 2026 Kirby Cup Soccer Camp Request. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

**Approve Minutes from December 2, 2025 Regular Meeting**

The Minutes from the December 2, 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. Covil made a motion to approve the December 2, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Glasscock seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote to 5 to 0.

**Approve Financial Report for November 2025**

The Harmon Field financial report as of November 30, 2025 was reviewed. According to the report, Total Revenues were \$278,034.61 (81.69% of budgeted amount). Total Operating Expenditures were \$125,655.82 (37.52% of budgeted amount). Total Capital Expenditures were \$2,226.90 (41.24% of budgeted amount). Total Expenditures were \$127,882.72 (37.57% of budgeted amount). Ending (pre-audit) Fund Balance was \$251,118.89.

The Board asked if there was any update on the invoice sent to the Dallara Foundation for unpaid maintenance for past years. Gordon would relay the request to Fatland for an update when the meeting continued on January 15, 2026. Gordon noted that Half-Marathon revenue and expenditure line items had been added to the Harmon Field accounting system to track success of such events as a fundraiser for Harmon Field going forward.

Nelon made a motion to approve the financial report for November 2025 as presented. Sloan seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

**Kirby Cup Soccer Camp Request**

George Alley presented information on the 2026 Kirby Cup Soccer Camp, a free program funded by a grant from the Polk County Community Foundation Kirby Harmon Field Youth Activities Fund providing an educational and sports experience for up to 80 area children. The 2026 camp was scheduled for Tuesday, June 9 through Saturday, June 13, 2026 with soccer played in the morning and global educational discussion of assigned countries each team represented during the camp in the afternoons. Alley requested that the 2026 Camp be permitted to use Harmon Field facilities, soccer fields and shelters and/or gym as needed at the same \$400 flat rate rental fee paid in past years when the camp used the cabin and the soccer fields. Alley would work out logistics with Park Superintendent Gordon regarding the soccer fields and which shelters to use and tables/chairs, if needed. Alley also requested use of the small soccer goals, and Gordon confirmed that Harmon Field had them and Gordon would assemble them over the winter for the camp to use. Gordon reported that he did not yet have any information from Polk County Recreation/YMCA regarding the county's 2026 soccer schedule. All five members of the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors approved for the 2026 Kirby Cup Soccer Camp to proceed as proposed with a \$400 flat facility rental fee as requested.

**Proposed Harmon Field Playground Rules & Park Rules Amendments**

Park Superintendent Gordon provided handouts on proposed draft Park Rules and draft Playground Rules. Gordon suggested reviewing the proposed Park Rules to discuss later and requested approval of the proposed Playground Rules now so he could order the rules signs to post at the playground as soon as possible. Proposed Harmon Field Playground Rules were:

- Use at your own risk: Emergency call 911
- Do not use playground equipment if wet (slippery surfaces increase fall risks)
- Do not use playground equipment if too hot to touch (risk of burns)
- No Glass containers, Food or Gum in the play area
- No Smoking or Tobacco products in the play area
- Absolutely no Pets in the play area (except service animals in some cases)
- Stay clear of area behind and in front of swings
- No rough play, pushing, shoving or bullying
- Use playground equipment as intended
- No climbing on fences, rails or outside of playground equipment
- No littering
- No ropes, jump ropes, leashes, or strings attached to equipment
- Remove bike helmets, necklaces, drawstrings and loose clothing before playing
- Proper shoes required
- Only one person per swing at a time
- Report any damaged playground equipment to Harmon Field staff at [harmonfield@tryonnc.gov](mailto:harmonfield@tryonnc.gov) or call Tryon Town Hall.

Covil asked why shoes were required and Gordon responded that the playground mulch could contain materials that could make barefoot contact dangerous. Meg Rogers suggested adding the Tryon Down Hall phone number to the last rule so reporting damage would be easier. Watson suggested adding that "All other Harmon Field Park Rules also apply." Nelon made a motion to approve the Harmon Field Playground Rules as amended. Covil seconded the motion. Motion as approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

**Harmon Field Furniture Discussion**

Gordon provided a map diagram of Harmon Field showing the location of existing benches at Harmon Field (red dots) and proposed locations for additional benches (blue dots) in the Harmon Field Master Plan to help staff determine how many donations specifically for benches could be accepted. So far donations for benches had been received or promised so that only three more would be needed to fill the proposed locations. Gordon asked for the Board to approve addition of the proposed bench locations to the adopted Master Plan. Chairman Watson stated he preferred to wait for approval of changes to Master Plan before soliciting donations for benches from the public. Gordon explained that donors had asked to donate benches now because benches were lost during the floods. The proposed new locations put the benches at regular distances for the convenience of older patrons. Chairman Watson recommended allowing staff discretion to place new benches already donated to locations away from active construction areas temporarily and allow staff to accept voluntary donations on that basis with the understanding that the final locations would be set in the updated Harmon Field Master Plan. Glasscock recommended delaying accepting further donations until the Harmon Field Donation Policy had been adopted. Gordon stated his preference for site decision as soon as possible to permit having the benches installed by spring and having time to schedule a meeting with Master Plan Designer Mark Byington to make the Master Plan update to include the new benches. Further discussion of bench locations was tabled.

Gordon also provided diagrams on all electrical outlets, drainage areas, trash cans and other fixtures at Harmon Field for the Board's review. Damaged electrical outlets already removed to reduce ongoing electrical costs and considerations regarding pending FEMA funding for repairs/replacements for electrical damages were discussed briefly.

**Harmon Field Half-Marathon/Morris Fun Run Event Update**

Brad Gordon provided a handout of an e-mail from Kathryn Gordon with updates on registrations to date, promotional activities at the recent Tryon Christmas Parade, a promotional partnership with Katie Malone Coaching to assist participants with preparing for the event, planned presentations to potential event sponsors and a scheduled interview with reporter Storme Smith for a Tryon Daily Bulletin article. Safa Farris, a pottery maker in Rutherfordton, will be crafting the awards for the division winners with a platter for 1<sup>st</sup> place, mug for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, and soap-dish for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The pottery awards would feature a Harmon Field Half-Marathon logo imprint. Total cost of the locally hand-made pottery awards would be \$1,700.00. Sponsorships (cash and in-kind) would cover all event expenses. Event would be held regardless of weather with each route beginning and ending at the same location near the children's playground and refreshments provided at the shelter in front of the old concession stand.

Brad & Kathryn Gordon requested Harmon Field Board of Supervisors approval for an ABC permit for the event to allow breweries to serve beer at the event. Chairman Watson stated that the Board would need to designate an area at Harmon Field where alcohol would be allowed for this event. In the past, alcohol was only allowed inside the cabin. Setting a new location where alcohol would be allowed might require both Tryon Board of Commissioners and Harmon Field Board of Supervisors official approval. Gordon clarified that beer would not be sold, only served to registered participants. Alcohol permitting would be discussed further at a future meeting.

**Revised Draft Harmon Field Donation Policy Review**

The draft donation policy with revisions to section 4 regarding recognition of donors was reviewed. Gordon recommended a special event clause under types of donations to accommodate events with multiple sponsors/donations to reduce the time and difficulty of each sponsorship check requiring approval by the Board before being accepted. A blanket approval would streamline the process for approved fundraiser events.

Covil made a motion to approve the revised Harmon Field Donation Policy, January 6, 2026 version as presented. Sloan seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

Existing donor recognition signage at Harmon Field at the equestrian rings, equestrian barns and the granite marker at the playground were discussed and staff was instructed to remove such signage during the cleaning and restoration process. Jamie Dunn asked Gordon to make a list of the donor names on the stall donor plaques to keep on file for reference in future fundraising efforts for the Harmon Field equestrian facility. Future facility rehabilitation donor signage would include a defined time limit. Equestrian ring names could remain unchanged for now to provide continuity for site recognition by competitors at equestrian events. The granite marker at the playground could be removed since the Thermal Belt Rotary Club no longer existed and the remaining Tryon Rotary Club had no objections to the marker removal.

**Park Superintendent Report and Recovery Updates**

Harmon Field Park Superintendent Gordon provided handouts:

- **Proposed Updates for Facilities Use Fee Schedule**
  - Gordon provided copies of the current facilities fee schedule and a handout with proposed changes to fees for Baseball Fields, Soccer Fields, Open-Air Gym, Tennis & Pickleball Courts, Special Usage Charges that would require Negotiated Rates, Food Trucks and Equestrian Facilities. Gordon stated he tried to be as fair as possible, but the increases were appropriate to cover increased cost of supplies for maintenance and operations.
  - Tennis Pickleball Courts had free lights for period determined by staff. For tennis/pickleball court lights beyond that period, the user had to reserve the courts and pay the hourly rental fee with lights for the entire tennis/pickleball facility.
  - Gordon asked the Board to review the proposed changes for future discussion.
  
- **Supervisor Notes**
  - Staff had been completing small projects throughout the park in preparation for spring
  - Gordon was updating the Harmon Field Equipment inventory, along with outlining expectations and projects planned for 2026.
  - Gordon & Stafford were working together to prepare the park for spring by pressure washing, staining and painting as needed.
  - While Gordon was off, Stafford cleaned all maintenance shops and storage areas in preparation for the new year.
  - Equestrian show ring refencing would begin this week. Gordon & Stafford were working on getting the old boards and post holes cleaned so the fencing crew could begin work.
  - Tennis court netting would begin to be installed this week if weather permitted and staff would take the third net down, paint poles, pour small concrete area for

anchor and attach new net. The other two would be done one at a time until all three were finished. The Leyland cypress trees needed to be trimmed.

- Gordon was starting work on 2026-2027 budget needs that would include projects around the park for the Board of vote on in the coming months.
- **Community Center**
  - Town Manager Jim Fatland, HFBS Chairman Warren Watson and Gordon met with consultant Will Rice to interview applicants who submitted responses to the Request for Qualifications (RFQs) for the Harmon Field Community Center design project on December 15, 2025 at Tryon Town Hall, McCown Room
  - Three potential architecture design firms were interviewed. All firms were highly experienced and presented strong ideas for the new community center.
  - Gordon thanked Fatland and Watson for permitting him to participate in the process at these meetings. Gordon appreciated the opportunity to observe the selection process and gain valuable insight into project management as this project began to take shape.
- **FEMA**
  - The 428 projects had been approved with Maria's leadership and was currently in the FEMA process. Gordon would provide updates as soon as additional information was received.
  - Staff continued to work with Carlos Arredondo and Maria on several smaller projects that included contents and labor costs
  - The gazebo for the area near the small picnic shed arrived. Chuck Sherbert from Tryon Streets Department would assist in getting this installed in the next week or so.
  - Additional handouts were provided showing the approval timeline grids for the FEMA projects.
- **Open-Air Gym**
  - The open-air gym was waiting for Derek Champion's crew to paint the exterior. Once exterior painting was complete, staff planned to place two picnic tables at the site.
  - Watson reported that the door to the gym room was unlocked and needed to be secured somehow so no one could enter the room without permission.

Watson reported that a large crane was allowed to be parked overnight at Harmon Field after completing a tree removal on a nearby property too late to move the crane back to the tree service contractor's base before dark.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 6:00 pm at Tryon Town Hall, McCown Room.

**Motion for Addition to Agenda of Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) to discuss contract negotiations and pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to discuss personnel and to enter closed session.**

Covil made a motion to add to agenda a closed session to discuss contract negotiations and personnel and to enter closed session. Glasscock seconded the motion. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

The Board entered into closed session at 7:20 p.m.

The Board reentered open session at 8:20 p.m.

**Continuation of meeting to Thursday, January 15, 2026, 6:00 pm was approved**

Board temporarily continued the meeting to Thursday, January 15, 2026, 6:00 pm at 8:20 p.m.

Chairman Watson called the meeting back to order on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

**Discussion of Harmon Field Community Center RFQ Architects.**

Chairman Watson introduced consultant Will Rice who presented a quick summary on the process for architectural design contractor selection in compliance with the FEMA reimbursement procedures. RFQ responses (Statement of Qualifications or SOQs) had to be reviewed and ranked based solely on qualifications without any fee information. Price negotiations would begin with the top ranked applicant and, if an acceptable price could not be negotiated, the next highest ranked applicant would be invited to negotiate an acceptable price until an agreement was reached. The three SOQs submitted for the Harmon Field Community Center Design Project were reviewed by a four-person committee who then proceeded to interviews with the three applicants. Each firm was asked the same list of questions with a question-and-answer period to follow and opportunity for the applicant to pitch their proposal. All three firms had the ability to complete the design project. All three firms had good emotional connections to the local area. The minimum level of ability was met by all firms. The four-member committee recommended Architecture Unlimited as the highest ranked applicant based on their outstanding interview, diverse team, expansive resources, and more reserves to address unforeseen problems that might occur during the process. Their interview showed more preparatory work and included a partially completed concept to show during the interview. Although the applicant home office in Matthews, NC raised concerns on travel expenses, the founder and the current executive of the firm had strong knowledge of the building when it was the Tryon High School where the executive attended school. The firm also had the staff to provide in-house project costing accurate to within 3% of actual cost without having to go to an outside firm at additional cost to provide that service. Materials provided by Architecture Unlimited showed standardized procedures that included a clear project timeline and procedure check lists to keep the project on track.

The scope of work included in the RFQ was summarized briefly. Chairman Watson stated that the top ranked applicant Architecture Unlimited (AU) had the resources to provide quick changes as needed as public input was received and implemented. AU could provide 3-D modeling for the design package that could be useful in public input "charette" meetings.

Glasscock asked what was the next step in the process after selecting a contractor for the preliminary design work based on the SOQ. Fatland explained that the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors should make a recommendation based on the SOQ ratings. The recommendation would then be taken to the Tryon Board of Commissioners for approval to proceed to price negotiations and Town Manager Fatland would do the write-up according to the FEMA process

guidelines. If price negotiations with the top-ranked applicant failed, the next highest ranked applicant would be invited to negotiate price and the process would continue until an agreement was reached. Fatland estimated the process would take six to seven months to get to contract to construct on the project. Using the \$28,000 insurance settlement from past building damage to fund the preliminary design process would put the project ahead of the curve for proceeding to construction faster. Fatland summarized the funding sequence and timeline for funding. Chairman Watson, who participated in the interviews, was willing to answer any questions the Board members might have on the SOQ evaluation process. Covil and Glasscock expressed concerns that funding for final construction would not be sufficient for the final result to be a usable building.

Nelson made a motion to recommend that Architecture Unlimited be selected based on the SOQ for the Architectural Conceptual Design for the Harmon Field Community Center with stipulation that the total design fee not exceed \$28,000. Sloan seconded the motion. Motion was discussed briefly with agreement that action was needed as soon as possible to, at a minimum, stabilize the building and bring it up to code so it could be used. Motion was approved by a vote of 5 to 0.

The action tonight would indicate that recovery at Harmon Field was moving forward. Fatland would present the Harmon Field Board of Supervisors recommendation to the Tryon Board of Commissioners at the January 21, 2026 meeting. The process would move to negotiations with the selected firm. Chairman Watson stated that he wanted everyone to feel their comments and concerns had been heard and considered.

**Other**

- **Harmon Field Flea Market Fundraiser** – Gordon reported that a flea market fundraiser was planned for May 9, 2026. Sellers would rent booth space around the oval walking track for a set fee per space. If the fundraiser was well-received, additional flea market fundraisers would be held.
- **Park Superintendent additional comments** – Chairman Watson thanked Gordon for finishing the rails on the ends of the bridge for public safety. Gordon reported lots of public interest in horse shows returning to Harmon Field. Chairman Watson asked about the gym downspouts and Gordon was waiting on a second quote to install 6" gutter and downspouts.

**Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Watson at 7:09 pm on Thursday, January 15, 2026.

**Submitted By:**

**Approved:**



**Rick Covil**  
**Secretary-Treasurer**



**Warren Watson**  
**Chairman**