TOWN OF WEDDINGTON
PARK AND EVENTS BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026 – 6:30 P.M.
WEDDINGTON TOWN HALL
1924 WEDDINGTON ROAD
WEDDINGTON, NC 28104
AGENDA

1. Call to Order

   The Park and Events Board Meeting was called to order on Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:30 PM at Weddington Town Hall, 1924 Weddington Road, Weddington, NC 28104.

2. Determination of Quorum

   Quorum was determined with Chair Gayle Butler, Ann Marie Cruz, Paula Smith, Sundar Santhanam, and Mike Petrizzzo.

   Board Members absent: Kasturi Shetty.

   Staff Present: Town Administrator/Clerk Doug Gailey

3. Conflict of Interest Statement: *In accordance with state law, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid conflicts of interest. Does any Board member have any known conflict of interest with respect to any matters on the agenda? If so, please identify the conflict and refrain from any participation in the matter involved.*

   The Chair read the conflict of interest statement in accordance with state law. No board members identified any conflicts of interest with respect to matters on the agenda.

4. Public Comments: *Individuals are allowed 3 minutes to speak. A maximum of 30 minutes is allocated to the Public Comment Period. The time limit may be extended at the discretion of the Chairman.*

   John Houston addressed the Board on two matters related to the Camp New Providence commemoration.

   Camp New Providence Voiceover Recording: *Mr. Houston noted that the voiceover recording produced by his uncle, Alan Walden, had been completed and shared. The Board confirmed the recording was approved as-is, with no changes requested. Mr. Houston indicated he would notify Mr. Walden accordingly. The Board discussed that a second, separate recording should be produced to advertise the specific event dates, keeping the date announcement distinct from the general event recording so that each could be used independently as needed.*

Camp New Providence Event Dates: *The Board confirmed the Camp New Providence event is tentatively scheduled for October 16–17, 2027, chosen to fall before October 20th.*

Union County Proclamation: *Mr. Houston informed the Board that a request had been submitted to Union County asking them to officially proclaim October 20th as Camp New Providence Day in Union County. No response had yet been received. Mr. Houston noted the request carries no cost to the County—only an official proclamation is required—and that follow-up efforts were ongoing. He committed to keeping the Board updated.*

5. Approval of meeting minutes
    A. September 15, 2026 meeting minutes

Board Member Santhanam noted a correction in the minutes: the assigned responsibilities for the EMT contact and the Sheriff's Department contact had been swapped between himself and Kasturi Shetty. With that correction noted, a motion was made to approve the minutes as amended.

Motion: *to approve the September 15, 2026 meeting minutes with corrections was made by Board Member Paula Smith*

Second: *by Board Member Michael Petrizzo.*

The motion carried unanimously.

6. Old Business
    A. Christmas Tree Lighting
        1. Assignment updates

The Board conducted a round-robin status update on Christmas Tree Lighting preparations.

*Food Vendors & Event Permit (**Paula Smith**): Board Member Smith reported that all food vendor permits had been received. She also met with staff member Debbie to complete the county event permit application, including all required parcel numbers. The application was subsequently advanced by Board Member Petrizzo.*

*Santa's Mailbox (**Paula Smith**): Board Member Smith reported that she had spoken with the Rotary Club, who confirmed their willingness to participate by providing a Santa's mailbox. The Rotary Club sought guidance on the mailbox style, as various formats exist. A brief discussion arose regarding what happens to letters deposited by children; the Board acknowledged this is standard practice for such events and agreed to grant the Rotary Club full creative liberty in designing the mailbox, provided it is freestanding. Board Member Smith will relay this direction to the Club.*

*Sheriff's Department (**Sundar Santhanam**): Board Member Santhanam confirmed that staff member Debbie had been contacted and was coordinating with Union County to arrange an off-duty Sheriff's deputy for the event.*

*Seating Inventory (**Michael Petrizzo / Paula Smith**): Board Members Petrizzo and Smith reported that the town has 107 chairs and 12 tables available for the event. The event map was submitted to Union County.*

*Banner Update **(Doug Gailey, Town Administrator**): Town Administrator Gailey relayed that Debbie confirmed the event banner requires an annual date update. All Star Signs will apply a date patch and hang the banner two to three weeks before the event. The banner is to be dropped off and picked up at*

their shop located at 241 Post Office Drive, Suite 78, Indian Trail. Board Member Smith volunteered to handle the banner, noting familiarity with that vendor.

Flipping Marketplace Vendor: Town Administrator Gailey noted that Dee Lear of Flipping Marketplace had contacted the town to confirm her participation, selling Christmas-themed light-up toys and trinkets for children. Her certificate of insurance is forthcoming. The Board noted this vendor has historically been positioned in a designated area of the event grounds, and the event map reflects a generic vendor table placement.

Beverage Vendor – Middle James: A discussion arose regarding whether Middle James, the beer tent vendor, could offer beverage options beyond beer for attendees who do not drink beer. Board Member Smith reported that Middle James currently offers Prosecco, alcoholic cider, and hard seltzer in addition to beer. The Board expressed satisfaction with these options and agreed that having all beverages consolidated to a single vendor was preferable. Board Member Smith agreed to follow up with the vendor regarding any additional wine options.

*Entertainment & Volunteers (**Doug Gailey**): Town Administrator Gailey relayed updates from committee member Anne Marie Cruz. She had updated the Sign Up Genius entertainment schedule to accommodate the 7:00 PM tree lighting and Miss Weddington award presentation, and added a 5:45 PM slot to better serve younger performing groups. All contacts from Debbie's list had been reached out to. Anne Marie also planned to contact DECA at Weddington High School and local Boy Scouts for volunteer support.*

Volunteer Coordination: The Board discussed the number of volunteers needed, particularly for setup and teardown of tables and chairs. It was noted that with the Weddington Youth Council (potentially up to 28 members), Boy Scouts, and DECA, there may be more volunteers than needed. The Board agreed that over-volunteering is a risk, as idle volunteers are less likely to return. Board Member Smith proposed holding the Young Men's Service League in reserve and confirming their participation closer to the event date, on a need-to-know basis. The Board agreed to this approach and directed that Anne Marie be informed that volunteer needs are primarily for setup and teardown.

Santa's Line Management: A brief discussion was held on whether volunteers should be assigned to manage the line of children waiting to see Santa, similar to practices observed at other town events. The Board agreed this was a good idea and that one or two volunteers dressed as elves could help manage the queue and improve the overall experience. The Chair also mentioned purchasing small candy canes to hand out to children visiting Santa.

Miss Weddington: Town Administrator Gailey noted that the Miss Weddington recipient is determined in November, so the specific individual will not be known before the event. It was confirmed that the presentation is a formal recognition by the Mayor and that the recipient brings her own crown. The DJ/emcee, who also handles entertainment introductions and announcements, will manage the presentation segment. Board Member Smith confirmed the DJ introduces all performing groups and will need the full entertainment schedule and any relevant details about each performance.

7. New Business

Board Member Smith introduced two items for future Board consideration.

Community Litter Sweep: Board Member Smith reported that during a visit to the town storage shed, she and Board Member Petrizzo discovered equipment for a litter sweep, including vests, bags, gloves, and signage. She proposed organizing a town-wide litter sweep in the spring, noting that roads such as Antioch Church Road accumulate significant litter. The Board expressed support for the idea, with discussion around engaging HOAs and neighborhood groups in a coordinated weekend effort. Town Administrator Gailey recommended adding this item to a future agenda for further discussion.

Arbor Day Event: Board Member Smith proposed that the Town of Weddington establish an Arbor Day event, noting that the Village of Marvin holds one annually. She suggested planning for a spring event, as tree planting is best done before March. Board Member Smith noted that Trees Union provides trees to Union County residents and could supply and advise on tree selection, typically offering native species. A brief discussion was held regarding potentially planting a tree in the town park, including the idea of a Christmas tree, though it was noted that Trees Union focuses on native tree species. Board Member Smith acknowledged she serves on the Trees Union board and raised the question of a potential conflict of interest; Town Administrator Gailey clarified that because no financial benefit is involved, no conflict exists. The Board expressed interest and agreed to monitor the Village of Marvin's upcoming October Arbor Day event before planning their own for a future spring.

8. Reports

No additional reports were presented. The Chair thanked public commenter John Houston for his continued work on the Camp New Providence commemoration, noting the Board's commitment to supporting the event and securing sponsorships as needed given the approximately eighteen-month planning horizon.

9. Adjournment

***Motion** to adjourn was made by Board Member Paula Smith*

***Second** by Board Member Michael Petrizzo.*

The motion carried unanimously.