

## Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee

June 11, 2026

4:00 pm

Freedom Community Center

7340 SW 41 Place, Gainesville, FL 32608

Pages

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
4. **Approval of Minutes**
5. **Parks & Open Space Director Update - Jason Maurer**
6. **Park Projects Update - Ed Williams**
7. **ROSCO Goals**
8. **Discuss Day/Time/Location of Future Meetings**
9. **Public Comment**
10. **Adjournment**

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## Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee

Date: April 23, 2026  
Time: 4:00 pm  
Location: Freedom Community Center  
7340 SW 41 Place, Gainesville, FL 32608

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:09pm

Members Present: Sarah Bruning, Jane Luzar (Vice Chair), Steven Scott (Chair)

Members Absent: Adriana Carter

### 2. Public Comment

None.

### 3. Approval of the Agenda

Sarah Brunnig made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Jane Luzar second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### 4. Approval of Minutes

Sarah Brunnig made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Jane Luzar second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### 5. Parks & Open Space Director Update - Jason Maurer

Jason started off with informing the committee about the state bill 1134 which have been signed and approved. Mentions were made about a drowning incident of two female that happened at Poe Springs over the weekend of the 19th of April, there is still an ongoing investigation into the matter.

An AED unit will now be places at the bathroom area at Poe Springs to help with emergency situation as such. A phone will now be dispatched to maintenance worker assign to Poe Spring, and the number will be posted over the Poe Springs compound to help with emergency response time.

The old Dock at Kate Barnes have been removed and will be renovating after the bidding offer.

The mowing contractors will be advise on a new schedule, due to the lock of rain and more dryer grounds.

The county is still in a state of emergency due to the wildfire that has been taken place recently.

Jamie Bass and Glen Blake are now in training to take their CDL.

A discussion was done explaining what we expect the layout of the annual report to look like. members of the committee gave their input as to what they are expecting to see within the report as well.

our next meeting which will be held in June, the committee members will be discussing goals that they would like to see ROSCO achieves.

## **6. Park Projects Update - Ed Williams**

4-23-2026

ROSCO Park Projects Update

- MK Rawlings Park/Kate Barnes Ramp - Replacement of the existing boarding dock, addition of a courtesy dock on the south side of the channel, paved accessible parking, and accessible sidewalks.

We're working with our A&E consultants to finalize the construction documents and get this project out to bids ASAP.

- Poe Springs - Two projects underway here, the first being replacing the existing springside restrooms and the second being improvements to the boat launch that include replacement of the boarding dock, an accessible kayak launch, paved accessible parking, and accessible sidewalks.

- o Construction of the new springside restrooms is complete. Utilizing unused contingency funds to also install a springside electrical service for food trucks & maintenance needs.

- o We're working with our A&E consultants to finalize construction documents for the boat launch improvements and get this project out for bids ASAP.

- Copeland & Monteocha Parks - New playgrounds, additional parking, pavilion(s), better accessibility, landscaping, site lighting, and additional amenities as appropriate.

We're working with our A&E consultants to finalize the construction documents for Montechoa Park and get this project out for bids ASAP. After some coordination with Public Works regarding proposed sidewalks along NE 27th Avenue, we're hopeful the Copeland Park plans won't be far behind.

\* FRDAP grant was applied for on 9/30/2025 for \$200K for improvements to Montechoa Park.

- Jonesville Park - Construction of a new soccer stadium, additional parking, better accessibility, and new pickleball courts.

Construction documents are nearly complete for the building containing press box, bleachers, locker/restrooms for officials, and storage. Site plans are currently under review by the DRC. Once approved, we'll work with our A&E consultants to finalize the documents and get this project out for bids ASAP.

- West End Park - Development of a new 75 acre community park that both maintains & enhances prior improvements made in preparation for the World Masters Athletics (WMAi25) event. Including a 2K cross country course, an internationally certified area for javelin, discus, and hammer throw, additional parking, and associated utility infrastructure.

Community engagement meetings related to development as a community park were held on 8/13/2024, 4/29/2025, and 1/22/2026. We updated the Board on 3/24/2026 and presented the final master plan. Consequently, we gained approval to proceed with a restroom building on the west side of the park and were asked to return during a late May/early June budget meeting to further discuss phasing of the next round of improvements.

- Pinesville Park/St. Peter Park - Development of a new pocket park on 2.2 acres just north of Archer.

Bids have been received for this project, and after some due diligence, we've submitted our

department recommendation for the lowest responsive & responsible bidder. Once approved by Procurement and the Board, we'll work with the awarded contractor to establish the timeline for construction. Playground equipment was ordered and is waiting for installation.

- Cuscowilla Nature & Retreat Center - Two projects underway here, the first to add solar site lighting in & around the existing paved parking lot and the second to improve stormwater & wastewater management onsite.
  - o Solar light fixtures & poles were delivered in December. Precast concrete footings were delivered to the jobsite yesterday. We anticipate installation by County staff next month.
  - o Working with our A&E consultants, we've come up with a potential plan to improve stormwater management and enhance user accessibility behind the Lodge. Trying to resolve wastewater concerns has proven more challenging than originally anticipated.
- Video Surveillance Systems - Establishment of a County-wide standard & subsequent RFP for continuing services that can be utilized by all departments as needed. Finally reached consensus, and RFP 26-152-MM was released on 4/15/2026 with submission deadline of 5/20/2026. Thereafter it is our intent to install systems at Cuscowilla, Chestnut, and Poe Springs Parks for safety & security.
- Palm Point Park - Acquisition of existing nature park on west side of Newnans Lake from the City of Gainesville. Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) completed. Awaiting corrected deed from City before creating agenda item for Board acceptance & approval.
- Jill McGuire Santa Fe Lake Park - Replacement of the existing boarding dock; new lakeside pavilions, picnic tables, and grills; new multipurpose sports court that includes pickleball; and better accessibility. Proposal for A&E is forthcoming.

- Squirrel Ridge Park - Construction of new restrooms and accessibility improvements.  
Proposal for A&E is forthcoming. Meanwhile, Legal is reviewing our draft of a perpetual utility easement with Meridian Healthcare that will give us the ability to tie into their existing wastewater system via a manhole on the corner of their property and save us having to run a line all the way to Williston Road.
- Soccer Field Renovations at Jonesville & Veterans Parks - Renovation of Soccer Fields 1 & 4 at Jonesville Park and renovation of the south soccer field at Veterans Park. Field renovations consist of eradicating existing turf/weeds, removing irrigation heads, rototilling existing material to min. depth of 6", adding additional topsoil (if needed) to obtain proper slope, laser grading, reinstalling irrigation heads, resodding, fertilizing, and top dressing with sand. We're working with Procurement & Legal to accept quotes from an existing vendor via piggyback off another county's ITB.
- Jonesville Tennis Stucco Replacement - Replacement of stucco on exterior of Tennis Center and Tennis Storage building.  
Notice to Proceed is being issued for next Wednesday with a time for completion of sixty (60) calendar days.  
Note: Completion of the underlined projects will make us substantially complete with the Risk assessment

**7. Discuss Day/Time/Location of Future Meetings**

Next meeting will be held on June 11th @ 4:00pm @ Veterans Memorial Park.

**8. Public Comment**

None.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07pm.