

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street

Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 15, 2026

5:00 PM

2nd Floor Conference Room

Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission

Tixie Fowler, Chair

Jon Davis, Commission Member

Joe Weber, Commission Member

Kassie Diehl, Commission Member

Scott Leslie, Commission Member

1. Call to Order

Chair Tixie Fowler called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tixie Fowler	Chair	Present	
Jon Davis	Board member	Present	
Kassie Diehl	Board member	Present	
Joe Weber	Board member	Present	
Scott Leslie	Board member	Tardy	

Attending Public

Len Housley - Director, Public Works (PW, Utilities, Parks)

Michael Jones – Staff Liaison

Terry Sutton – Tree Preservation Board Liaison

Lisa Carr - citizen

2. Action Item: Ratification of December 2025 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the December 18, 2025, meeting minutes

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS 4-0]

MOVER: Kassie Diehl, Board Member

SECONDER: Joe Weber, Board Member

AYES: Davis, Fowler, Leslie, Weber

Tardy: Scott Leslie, Board Member

3. Ongoing Business

A. City Updates (*Len Housley*)

Len Housley provided updates and led discussion regarding the following city projects:

1. **Norcross Greenway construction** – Len reported he is now anticipating an April 2026 project start with shovel in the ground” in July or August.
2. **Bike route safety signage** – Len reported the new sharrows are in place on roads identified as the “Norcross Bike Route”, and suggested Scott update his map (the initial recommended route) to include additional routes throughout the city. City Council will need to approve funding to create additional sharrows and signage: therefore, Len suggested Jalia Killings champion this next phase if signage development (tie into her Pedal Norcross imitative), noting that if Jalia is unable to take it to Council, he would be glad to do so.
3. **City Hall Parking Project** – Len reported City Council has formally directed staff to move forward with developing 60% concept design. Len also noted that he would be providing a public update on the design status at the February Policy Work Session.
Discussion resulted in several TO DO ITEMS for PGT Commission members:

a. collaborate with NPAC to make recommendations re what type of art installations might be installed throughout the City parking area and where. Len noted that the existing flagpole will be removed and there may be an opportunity to use the existing electrical outlets to uplight an art piece.

Len requested feedback no later than the end of February.

b. PG&T to make recommendations for native shrub planting on new site and submit to City Arborist Bruce Avery.

B. Stormwater system updates and ordinances review (*Tixie Fowler & Terry Sutton*)

Tixie reported that due to a schedule conflict she had asked staff to reschedule this meeting. Tixie asked Len for suggestions on gaps or opportunities to strengthen any city stormwater ordinances; Len didn't respond other than to say Norcross uses Gwinnett County standards.

Len added that erosion control modeling was needed so erosion measurements over extended periods of time can be effectively measured. Len said he planned to recommend to the City Manager to have a baseline set and model ongoing erosion with the goal of mitigating it. Tixie asked if this modeling would be replicated anywhere else – notably Pinnacle Park – and Len said “one site at a time”.

C. Piedmont Feasibility Study Marketing (*Michael Jones*)

Michael confirmed the city had been actively marketing this public meeting.

D. Tree Preservation Board Update (*Terry Sutton*)

Terry will update the Commission on recent collaborative efforts between Staff, Tree Preservation Board, and PG&T to review and address opportunities to strengthen and clarify existing ordinances relevant to city conservation interests and infill and/or future land development.

E. Swenson-Brown Forest Preserve (*Jon Davis & Tixie Fowler*)

Jon, Tixie and Terry shared their takeaways from the January 12 site meeting with Staff and Tree Preservation Board regarding conservation management plans discussed for that greenspace. Most notable was the consensus that S-B Forest Preserve should be recognized as a neighborhood park and not formalized beyond a few seating areas and informal (non-paved) trails. Michael Jones reported that he had waded into the pond on site and found it to be no deeper than 4” - 6” deep. City Engineer was also on site and confirmed that the “dam” which was causing local concern did in fact not meet the engineering definition of a dam, and the rise in terrain that helps keep the pond waters contained is a berm that was designed for the purpose that it continues to effectively perform.

While on that site, city staff Hunter Rawls recommended having a study done inventorying the site's existing plant community and suggested contracting with Trees Atlanta. Hunter noted this would provide meaningful content for developing a site-specific forest maintenance guide. Len suggested getting free hydrology and plant inventory work done through UGA and Tixie said she would contact UGA Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Management to see if undergrad or grad-level student(s) could be involved.

F. Heritage Park Revisioning (*Kassie Diehl*)

Kassie briefly reviewed initial ideas for re-visioning this site, noting initial interest in collaborating with NPAC, keeping the space as a passive space, adding art elements conducive to taking selfies (as a city marketing measure) and adding multiple sensory elements that would heighten

passive enjoyment of the space. Len commented on the empty pedestals in Heritage – Tixie explained that when the park was designed, art was intended for those pedestals but staff turnover resulted in no one following through with that initiative.

“TO DO” LIST (due by next meeting, February 19):

1. Kassie and Lisa Carr agreed they would work together to engage NPAC and identify next steps in project development.
2. Joe and Michael to develop campaign concepts for marketing the parks and greenspaces more effectively, and for increasing awareness of upcoming site projects such as Norcross Greenway.
3. Scott updating the bike route and making additional route recommendations to expand map.
4. Tixie to contact Liz Simpson (Chair, NPCA) to discuss recommended art installation sites in new city parking lot, and to submit list of native shrubs recommended for new city parking lot to City Arborist.

4. New Business

5. ADDITIONAL INPUT AND/OR DISCUSSION NOT OTHERWISE ADDRESSED BY THIS AGENDA

ACTION ITEM: Motion to adjourn made by Scott at 6:40pm; seconded by Jon. Motion passed 5-0.