

City of Norcross

65 Lawrenceville Street

Norcross, GA 30071



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 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

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:14 pm by Chair Tixie Fowler.

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

Attending Visitors

Julie Brechbill - Norcross Communications Manager

Paul Sumner - Chair, Discovery Garden Park

Robert Foro - Norcross Builders' Group

B. Action Item: Ratification of April 2026 meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the April 2026 Parks, Green Spaces, and Trails Commission meeting minutes.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] 3-0

MOVER: Jon Davis, Board Member

SECONDER: Tixie Fowler, Chair

AYES: Fowler, Davis, Leslie

ABSENT: Kassie Diehl, Joe Weber

C. Ongoing Business

A. City Updates

Michael introduces City Communications Manager Julie Brechbill. Julie shared updates on the city website, confirming a focus on a more robust and accessible representation of city parks and greenspaces on the refreshed site. Julie also noted that city signage is being reviewed and assessed for rebranding, more consistent branding, and that currently parks and trails signage would be under that review. When Tixie asked about incorporating GDOT signage as well, Julie suggested that PG&T take that up with Len Housley and David Versel.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to direct PG&T to map recommended locations for signage placement and to research any applicable laws, regulations, or standards regarding the type of directional signage to be used.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] 3-0

MOVER: Tixie Fowler, Chair

SECONDER: Scott Leslie, Board Member

AYES: Fowler, Davis, Leslie

ABSENT: Kassie Diehl, Joe Weber

Scott and Michael agreed to work together on development of signage map.

Michael reported no further movement on city negotiations with church to purchase parcels expanding Johnson Dean.

Regarding updates on the city parking lot, Michael reported Columbia Engineering is finishing construction plans for bidding, and Council approved a \$2.8M construction budget.

B. Developer Checklist

Tixie introduced Robert Forro and asked him to lead discussion regarding next steps for addressing the Board's interest in developing a process check-list for ensuring permitting and construction protocols are consistently addressed by City Staff and developers, as well as making recommendations for more robust BMP's relevant to stormwater management. Robert noted the city already has a checklist, and while it could be improved, he questioned the concern that Norcross has a stormwater management problem. Instead, Robert recommended the Board consider the following:

- a. PG&T shifts focus to public outreach to educate citizens and elected officials on the importance of innovative urban stormwater mitigation.
- b. Research urban stormwater mitigation models that work and share with staff and Council.
- c. Identify key (current) development ordinances that are counter-productive to supporting green infrastructure, such as current ordinances prohibiting bioswales, low-profile curbs, etc.)
- d. Encourage staff and Council to consider Norcross Builders' Group as key community stakeholders and include them in relevant discussions.
- e. Activate nature-based programming as a way to build emotional connection between citizens and local parks.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to remove the Developer Checklist Project from the table and cancel the vote pending further research and consideration of Robert Forro's suggestions.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] 3-0

MOVER: Tixie Fowler, Chair

SECONDER: Scott Leslie, Board Member

AYES: Fowler, Davis, Leslie

ABSENT: Kassie Diehl, Joe Weber

D. New Business and General Updates

A. Drinking Fountains in Parks for Humans & Dogs (Michael Jones & Tixie Fowler) City Council has tasked the Parks Dept with collaborating with the Commission and NPAC (Norcross Public Arts Commission) to identify drinking fountains for installation in area parks and greenspaces. **ACTION ITEM:** The Board will be asked to vote on a style and color to recommend to NPAC for consideration at their next board meeting.

A. Buford Highway Stakeholders Meeting Update

Tixie did not have time to report on Buford Highway Stakeholders meeting, hosted by the City and city consultants on Monday, May 19, 2026.

B. Drinking Fountains in Parks for Humans & Dogs

ACTION ITEM: Motion to purchase the 3-way "Doggie 'n Me" fountain for public installation at Lillian Webb and Thrasher parks in the color green.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] 3-0

MOVER: Jon Davis, Board Member

SECONDER: Scott Leslie, Board Member

AYES: Fowler, Davis, Leslie

ABSENT: Kassie Diehl, Joe Weber

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

Paul Sumner, Chair of Discovery Garden Park, shared his presentation activating the old Norcross Welcome Center (adjacent to Discovery Garden Park) into a community-based activity center with a focus on environmental education programming and outreach.

ACTION ITEM: Motion to support the concept of transitioning the old Welcome Center into a community gathering place that benefits activity in Discovery Garden Park.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS] 3-0

MOVER: Scott Leslie, Board Member

SECONDER: Jon Davis, Board Member

AYES: Fowler, Davis, Leslie

ABSENT: Kassie Diehl, Joe Weber

F. Adjourn

Agenda ACTION ITEM was not brought up due to no further need for rescheduling. June meeting will remain as regularly scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 18, 2026.