

Parks & Trees Commission Meeting – April 13, 2026

Present: Elizabeth Shook, Barbara Cantey, Barb Willens, Lisa Rienta, Kat Spadacenta, Michael Eddings

Absent: Bob Williams, Rickey Macklin

Meeting began at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Barbara Cantey made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion was seconded and approved by all present.

Memorial Tree Request

Elizabeth shared a request from Sandy Shull to plant a memorial tree in honor of her husband at Kirkwood Common. Discussion included the need for a formal policy or process regarding memorial tree requests. Concerns were raised about setting a precedent for future requests and the importance of establishing guidelines for approved tree types, locations, and associated costs.

Barb Willens offered a leftover red maple tree from the community tree giveaway for the project. Discussion included coordinating with Brenda Sullivan regarding the landscaping plans for Kirkwood Common. Elizabeth will review prior records and speak with Matt DeWitt and Jack regarding a possible memorial tree program or memorial tree fund.

Park Reports

General park conditions remain dry due to lack of rainfall. Dead azaleas discussed at previous meetings are scheduled for removal and replacement. The armadillo trap at Hampton Park remains in place.

Kirkwood Common: Cypress trees are healthy and leafing out well. A bench near the pond requires repair.

Hampton Park: New playground equipment is scheduled for delivery April 30.

Burndale Park: Discussion included future playground improvements, toddler equipment, exercise stations, and possible use of development impact fee funds.

Community Survey: Members discussed using the Connect Camden app and a Google Form to gather resident feedback regarding future park improvements.

Rectory Square: Playground surfacing needs attention and additional material.

Riverfront Environmental Park (CREP): Wildlife activity observed. Butterfly garden project discussions continue with Clemson Extension and Nature As Teacher.

Town Green: Overall conditions are good with minor landscaping maintenance needed.

City Arena Park: Newly planted trees are healthy. Concerns include litter, debris along the fence line, and a pothole in the gravel drive area.

Edgewood Park: Vehicle parking violations were reported.

Kirkwood Park: Damaged AT&T utility box remains unresolved. Basketball court repairs and debris cleanup are still needed.

Archives Park: Discussion included replacing previously removed oak trees when replacement trees become available.

Additional Business

Kat reminded members of the upcoming Nature As Teacher Earth Day celebration, which will be supported by the City of Camden.

Three legacy bench dedications are planned this spring. Members also discussed shifting focus toward memorial tree opportunities instead of additional memorial benches.

Kat announced Forestry Commission representative Anne is being reassigned to the Upstate region.

Lisa shared that the Helen Ropers volunteer group plans to continue assisting with community cleanup and volunteer projects throughout Camden.

Barb Willens made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, May 11, 2026 at 5:30 pm.