

Fayette County Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2025

Present:

Charles McCollum – Recreation Commission Chair
Nick Kilburg- Recreation Commission Vice-Chair
Shirelle Hicks-Recreation Commissioner
Kynthia Gaines- Recreation Commissioner
Anita Godbee – Director, Parks and Recreation
Mary Catherine Domaleski – Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
Jessica Walker, Peach State Dragon Boat Academy
Timothy Milis, Peach State Dragon Boat Academy

- I. Call to order: 6:32 PM
- II. Welcome, Invocation, and Pledge: Charles
- III. Public Comment: none
- IV. Minutes
 - a. April 2025: motion to approve-Kynthia, second by Nick; all in favor.
- V. Old Business
 - a. Board Elections
 - i) Motion to keep Recreation Commission officers as currently seated.
 - (1) Motion to approve-Shirelle, second by Kynthia; all in favor.
 - b. Multiuse Facility Update
 - i) Ms. Godbee reported that the project has started work. The trees have been removed and the sitework prep has also started. The former activity house is scheduled to be demolished this month. Project is scheduled to be complete in the fall of 2026. A ribbon cutting will be planned around that time.
 - ii) Ms. Godbee also reminded the Commission of the time capsule idea. The capsule may be opened at the 25-year mark. Items to include in the capsule include the 50-year anniversary T-shirt and sticker, a signed ball or t-shirt, a brick from the former activity house, a newspaper from 2025, park pictures from 2025, or a map of the parks as of 2025. Ms. Godbee asked that idea for the time capsule be submitted by the end of the month.

VI. New Business

- a. Jessica Walker and Timothy Milis from the Peach State Dragon Boat Academy (PSDBA) formally presented a request for recognition as a Fayette County adult recreation association (presentation attached). The season runs from March to early November. PSDBA board will include a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.
 - i) Ms. Walker noted that the PSDBA is registered as a 501(c)(3) and will meet the county's requirements for recreation associations and standards.
 - ii) The intent is to enter a dock-sharing agreement with Row Georgia. Charles asked if they could consider other recreational areas such as Lake Kedron or Lake Horton.
 - iii) Ms. Walker asked if a floating dock would be feasible to utilize on the lake. Ms. Godbee noted that PSDBA would need to approach the Fayette County Water Authority regarding this issue.
 - iv) Ms. Walker also mentioned that parking spaces would be needed to facilitate two boat trailers and jackets. The trailers are approximately twelve feet long.
 - v) Charles reminded the PSDBA of the varying parking fees for non-Fayette County residents versus the residents (no parking fee), and the park hours (longer in the summer due to available daylight). The parks' gates close at sunset.
 - vi) Ms. Godbee stated that fundraising is prohibited on county property. Ms. Walker stated that PSDBA's main fundraiser is the Dragon Boat Festival.

VII. Staff Reports

- a. Ms. Godbee thanked the Commission for their participation in the Parks 50th Anniversary celebration. Because the drone show was rained out, it has been rescheduled for October 18th at the annual Fall Fair.
- b. Charles noted that he spoke with Commissioner Rousseau at the 50th anniversary event. Commissioner Rousseau expressed his pleasure with the Department and the Recreation Commission.

VIII. Board Reports

- a. None

IX. Adjournment: Motion- Nick, Second – Shirelle, all in favor 7:27 pm

Attachment: Peach State Dragon Boat Academy Request for Recognition as a Fayette County Adult Sports Association (May 13, 2025)

Next Meeting – June 13, 2025, at 6:30 PM



PEACH STATE

— DRAGON BOAT ACADEMY —

Request for Recognition as a Fayette County Adult Sports
Association

Presented by Jessica Walker, Founder & Head Coach
May 13, 2025

What's a Dragon Boat?



Who Are We?

Peach State Dragon Boat Academy (PSDBA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that provides inclusive paddling programs and competition opportunities to adults including:

- Seniors
- Corporate Team-Building
- Cancer Survivors
- Para-athletes (physical/intellectual/developmental disabilities)

Our Experienced Team



Jessica Walker
Founder &
Paddling Coach



Jason Muldrow
Marketing



Brandon Hannon
Fitness Coach &
Physical Therapy



Timothy Milis
Paddling Coach

Our Vision

Transforming lives
through Dragon
Boat — the world's
most inclusive and
accessible team
sport.



Aligned with Fayette County Parks & Recreation Policy & Procedures Manual

**We are fully prepared to align with
Fayette County's Parks & Recreation's
Athletic Association standards.**

- ✓ 501(c)(3) & Secretary of State Registration
- ✓ \$1M+ Liability Insurance (FayCo BoC as additional insured)
- ✓ Elected Board, Public Bylaws & Annual Meetings
- ✓ Background Checks, Concussion & Mandated Reporter

Training

- ✓ Annual Financial Reports & Facility Use Permits
- ✓ Inclusive, ADA-compliant programming
- ✓ Maintenance, energy, litter, signage, and safety adherence

Designed to Serve Adults Including:

Seniors
Cancer Survivors
Para-Athletes
Corporate Team-Building

Strength

Stamina

Social
Connection

Community

Purpose

Self-Confidence

Respect for
Nature

Adaptive
Competition

Camaraderie

Routine

Hope

Inclusion

Identity

Healing

Programs Will Include:

**Functional
Fitness &
Strength**

**Team
Culture &
Leadership
Skills**

**Paddling
Technique &
Water
Safety**

**Race
Preparation**

**Pathways to
National
Teams**

Program Types:

**Corporate
Team-
Building**

**Cancer
Survivorship**

**Birds and
Turtles Tour**

**10-Week
Competition
Readiness**

**Special
Needs
Athletes
and
Facilitators**

Our Credentials - Jessica Walker



Our Credentials - Tim Milis



Proposed Facility Use & Cooperation for 2026

- Dragon Boat practices at Lake McIntosh
- Pursuing a dock sharing agreement with Row Georgia
- Use of Lake McIntosh parking lot to store a boat trailer, an equipment trailer, and 2 dragon boats during paddling season



Proposed Facility Use & Cooperation for Future



- Our own accessible dock space to better serve para-athletes and seniors on Lake McIntosh



Safety is Our Top Priority

- CPR/AED, First Aid Certified Coaches
- PFDs (Life Jackets) Required
- Incident Reporting Aligned with County
- IDBF Water Safety Policy Adherence
- Coast Guard rules for thunder and lightning
- Para-athlete Risk Assessments
- Adaptive Equipment Available
- Always keep the boat within view of the shore
- Coaches have cell phones on the boat

A Fayette County Asset for Health & Inclusion

- New inclusive sport for Fayette County
- Serves marginalized and aging populations
- Boosts community wellness and visibility
- Corporate team-building opportunities
- Employee health & wellness option
- Grows local pride via national representation
- Expands recreational diversity
- Minimal impact on natural resources



PEACH STATE
—DRAGON BOAT ACADEMY—

**Our Success
Stories Are
About
Empowering
Beginners,
AND...**



EDMUND - AGE 85



MEET GEMALA!



PARADRAPAGONS



PEACH STATE
—DRAGON BOAT ACADEMY—

...Helping Them Aim for the Highest Goals



TEAM USA 2023

Rick Muller represented the US in 2023 as a Team USA ParaDragon paddler in Pattaya, Thailand. He was coached by Jessica Walker, Brandon Hannon, and Timothy Milis.



TEAM USA 2025

Kari Mortensen is a Team USA Senior C (age 60+) hopeful. She is working hard to be chosen to represent the US in 2025 in Brandenburg, Germany. She is being coached by Jessica Walker.

Rave Reviews From Athletes

 **Barbara Fraim Berkowitz** ★ recommends **Peachtree City Dragon Boat Festival**.
July 12, 2021 · 🌐

I started coming to Dragon Boat 101 because I was curious and wanted to try something new. I felt so welcomed and empowered! Jessica does such a great job of ensuring everyone has a positive experience and is met where they are on their journey. I invited several of my friends to join us and we ended up forming a team to compete in the festival. Everyone has a different story but we all agree that coming out to try dragon boat has been one of the best decisions we have ever made.

  You and 3 others

 Like

 **Jenna Graham** ★ recommends **Peachtree City Dragon Boat Festival**.
August 18, 2021 · 🌐

Dragon boat was not on my radar at all until a friend invited me to try it out. Finding out that the Rotary Club of Peachtree City sponsors the dragon boat clinics, thereby making them free to everyone, made getting out of my comfort zone less painful. After trying it once, I was head over heels in love. I found more than a place to just get out on the water and paddle a couple of times a week: I found a sport, a community that encourages and builds each other up. This is more than just an activity to me. I found out that this is the most inclusive sport in the world, and our community absolutely makes it true. I decided to help form a team to compete in races. This has become a part of me now. I'm so grateful that the Rotary Club made it possible for me to fall in love with padding, and makes it possible for anyone to try and see if they will too.

  4

1 share

 Like

 Comment

 Share

 **Robert Joyce** ★ recommends **Peachtree City Dragon Boat Festival**.
September 28, 2019 · 🌐

I paddled and loved it! I plan on coming back!

 Like

 Comment



Comment as Peachtree City Dragon Boat Festival

Our Request to Fayette County

We respectfully request:



- Recognition as an official County Sports Association
- Facility Use Permits for Lake McIntosh
- Permission to promote/fundraise within County
- Inclusion in recreation programming calendar



PEACH STATE
— DRAGON BOAT ACADEMY —



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www.psdba.org



Catch a Dragon. Save a Life.