

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
OCONEE COUNTY PRT COMMISSION
March 5, 2026
County Council Chambers
10:00 am

Members present were: Alex Butterbaugh, Riley Johnson, Trey Barnett, Kevin Cope, Tony Adams, & Kelli Thomason

Guests present were: Tim Todd, Cindy Blair, Nancy Warmath, Randy Roberts, & BJ Callahan

Also present were: Phil Shirley, PRT Director & Mandy Holbrooks, PRT Secretary

Call to Order

Phil Shirley called the meeting to order at **10:00 am**.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to accept minutes of **November 13, 2025** by **Alex Butterbaugh**, seconded by **Kevin Cope**. Vote was unanimously carried.

Election of Officer

- Upon a motion by **Riley Johnson**, seconded by **Kevin Cope** and carried, the Committee approved **Alex Butterbaugh serve as Chairperson of the PRT Commission.**
Vote was unanimously carried.

- Upon a motion by **Alex Butterbaugh**, seconded by **Kevin Cope** and carried, the Committee approved **Riley Johnson serve as Vice-Chairperson of the PRT Commission.**
Vote was unanimously carried.

Treasurer's Report

Phil Shirley presented the treasurer's report. Balance as of **February 26, 2026** Local ATAX is **\$257,715.57** and State ATAX is **\$288,760.00**.

Presentation of Grants

1. City of Seneca – advertising “Independence Day Celebration” - \$10,000.00
2. City of Walhalla – extend power to park in Brown's Square & Stumphouse Mtn. Park & vending machine - \$15,059.40
3. City of Westminster – website creation for promotion of William Bartram statue - \$2,000.00
4. Discover Upcountry Carolina – advertising - \$15,000.00
5. Eagles Nest Arts Center – advertising & building improvements - \$7,320.00
6. Lake Hartwell Country – advertising - \$10,000.00
7. South Carolina Apple Festival – advertising - \$10,000.00
8. The FARM Center – signage & advertising - \$20,000.00
9. Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail – advertising - \$1,622.00

10. Walhalla Performing Arts Center – advertising the 2026 Winter/Spring season - \$12,000.00
11. Westminster Music Center – advertising “Music on Main” & improvements to infrastructure - \$11,083.00
12. Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic Center – RV infrastructure & Horse Motel expansion project - \$6,000.00

Vote on Grants

- Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to City of Seneca – Independence Day Celebration for \$5,000.00 for advertising. Riley Johnson abstained from voting. Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Alex Butterbaugh, seconded by Trey Barnett and carried, the Committee approved motion to City of Walhalla for \$2,000.00 for installing & expanding power to park in Brown’s Square & Stumphouse Mtn. park & a vending machine.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Kelli Thomason, seconded by Trey Barnett and carried, the Committee approved motion to City of Westminster for \$600.00 for website creation to promote William Bartram statute.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Alex Butterbaugh, seconded by Riley Johnson and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Discover Upcountry Carolina for \$7,500.00 for advertising.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Kelli Thomason, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Eagles Nest Arts Center for \$4,000.00 for signage/parking upgrades/water fountains.
Vote was unanimously carried
- Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Lake Hartwell Country for \$5,000.00 for advertising.
Vote was unanimously carried
- Upon a motion by Alex Butterbaugh, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to South Carolina Apple Festival for \$4,000.00 for advertising.
Vote was unanimously carried.

- Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to The FARM Center for \$3,600.00 for facility improvements.
Vote was unanimously carried
- Upon a motion by Kelli Thomason, seconded by Alex Butterbaugh and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail for \$1,000.00 for advertising.
Vote was unanimously carried
- Upon a motion by Alex Butterbaugh, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Walhalla Performing Arts Center for \$6,650.00 for advertising Winter/Spring 2026 season.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Westminster Music Center for \$6,660.00 for advertising & improvements to infrastructure.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Alex Butterbaugh, seconded by Kelli Thomason and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to Wild Hearts Equine Therapeutic Clinic for \$4,000.00 for RV infrastructure & Horse Motel expansion.
Vote was unanimously carried.

PRT Action Items:

- PRT – South Cove - Pavilion maintenance - \$30,000.00
- PRT – South Cove – Maintenance repairs – restroom HVAC & office trusses - \$7,000.00
- PRT – Chau Ram – Mower replacement – Hustler X-One - \$12,100.00
- PRT – Granicus (short term rental software) – three-year contract renewal - \$33,374.00 per year
- PRT – Visit Oconee - Digital sign sponsor – Horton Recreation complex - \$10,000.00

Vote on PRT Action Item

- Upon a motion by Trey Barnett, seconded by Kevin Cope and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to PRT – South Cove for \$30,000.00 for Pavilion maintenance.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by Alex Butterbaugh, seconded by Trey Barnett and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to PRT – South Cove for \$7,000.00 for maintenance repairs – restroom HVAC & office trusses.
Vote was unanimously carried.

- Upon a motion by **Kelli Thomason**, seconded by **Kevin Cope** and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to **PRT – Chau Ram** for **\$12,100.00** for **mower replacement – Hustler X-one**.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by **Trey Barnett**, seconded by **Alex Butterbaugh** and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to **PRT – Granicus** for **\$33,374.00** for **three-year contract renewal**.
Vote was unanimously carried.
- Upon a motion by **Alex Butterbaugh**, seconded by **Trey Barnett** and carried, the Committee approved motion to recommend to County Council a grant to **PRT – Visit Oconee** for **\$10,000.00** for **digital sign sponsor – Horton Recreation complex**.
Vote was unanimously carried.

Next scheduled meeting of the PRT Commission is **May 7, 2026, at 10:00 am** in **County Council Chambers**

Meeting Dates:

May 7, 2026	Business Meeting
August 20, 2026	Review Grants
August 27, 2026	Vote on Grants
November 19, 2026	Business Meeting

Grants for the Fall cycle will be due August 14, 2026, by 3:00 pm.

Adjourn

As there was no further business, **Alex Butterbaugh**, made a motion, approved unanimously, to adjourn at **11:00 am**

Respectfully Submitted:

Phil Shirley
Director of Parks, Recreation & Tourism