



## TOWN OF DONALDS

Office of the Mayor and Town Council  
P.O. Box 275  
Donalds, SC 29638-0275

### **Executive Summary on Dunlap Park April 7, 2025**

Delivered to the Donalds Town Council on this seventh day of April 2025.

I am providing this written summary to update the town council on items since our last council meeting, given the amount of activity and important key areas to address. It will focus primarily on actions taken pertaining to Andy Price's March 7, 2025, letter and the physical actions and items addressed with the park as it currently sits. Also included is the update on the RFP & RFQ documents I created for Landscape Architectural Engineering firms to bid on and update to those meetings and submissions.

- 1) The electrical system and deenergizing of the meters that were located at the park has been completed. Duke Power removed both meters...I ended up having two onsite meetings with Duke Power because they were also unsure of how the electrical was designed and they had no records of schematics for the park. Our initial intent was to leave all of the lights on, however that wasn't possible because for some reason, the light where the main power comes in apparently isn't tied into the lights around the perimeter of the park, so we were only able to leave one light on, which is the main power one located at the Nickles Street side of the park. In addition to Andy's concerns, it is also super concerning that Duke Power and myself having an associate and bachelor's degrees in electrical engineering and member of IEEE since 1999 have no clue where power is run and no schematics available to read in order to find out. The power panel located between the Gazebo and Picnic Pavilion is now buried, according to Duke Power, however the one near the corner of the park is still mounted. Another issue is that panel was only rated for 100A, and we are thinking code should be 200A like the other one was. Also, once deenergized, Duke Power was getting 125VDC on that panel, and we have no idea why or where that is coming from. I initially thought that panel was for the water fountain, which also needs to be removed from the park, too. For these and many other reasons, I added a full Electrical Engineering schematic to be completed as a part of the bid package, and those drawings must be stamped by a Civil Engineer. We also need to have a timer included, so the lights are turned on and off at dawn and dusk, to better support our need for established park hours once the reimagined park is back open. The light from a single light is more than sufficient based on how it has illuminated the park area since Duke Power turned everything off. Also, in addition to electrical schematics at the park, I also added the same criteria for developing drawings at the town parking lot beside the bank. I went there with Duke Power, too, and they have nothing on it either. The scope is laid out in the bid package, but the overview is to have a standalone power box, since we no longer own that building and it does not look like we are going to have a chance to buy it back.

William O. Scoggins, Jr., MBA, MPA, Mayor \* Susan Powell, Town Council \* Jana Burton, Town Council \* Tisha Hill, Town Council \* Carol Ellis., Town Council \* Morgan Davenport, Town Clerk



## TOWN OF DONALDS

Office of the Mayor and Town Council  
P.O. Box 275  
Donalds, SC 29638-0275

### **Executive Summary on Dunlap Park April 7, 2025**

- 2) The picnic pavilion area in its entirety, the gazebo, and the old swing has all been demoed and removed from the park. Eddie will also be removing all of the benches and tables that are rotting, leaving only the composite ones behind and in the corner under the trees for future use. I took somewhere in the neighborhood of fifty pictures concerning areas 1 and 2 in this letter and we will discuss those in detail during the executive session. Bottom line, that Gazebo should have been gone a long time ago and for that picnic pavilion to be a gathering place for many people, we are fortunate that there was not a significant occurrence there.
- 3) Regarding the track itself, Tisha and I met with the first Contractor bidding on the project and the track and playground equipment were discussed. Tipton Pitts, who has worked with Keith Dunn on town project's in the past, told Tisha and myself that the track is 100 percent a replacement situation and IS NOT in repairable condition, so it will need to come up completely during this project and whenever we decide to reroute the track and consisting of whatever material we decide to go with, the track needs to be the next item demoed. Also, the slope in that one corner in both the up and down, as well as the side to side will not meet code as the terrain sits. We do have room to make a smaller path/track, so this should not be an issue. I have also discussed this with the other two contractors, and they have the same opinion on conditions.
- 4) The best news so far about the existing condition and situation is that it is the opinion of all three contractors that we can keep the playground equipment where it sits. We do need to have them confirm and recommend if we need to enclose the playground area with a nice little four-foot-high fence and also the need for a handicap accessibility entrance/exit for the playground area. All of this would again be in its current footprint.
- 5) With regard to codes and other areas that will be part of the bid. It appears that we will also need the following items for the park reimagination project.
  - a) We will need parking, which must also include 1-2 concrete handicap spots.
  - b) It is agreed that the fence surrounding the park should be removed, which should help solve the dog issue. That being said, the fence needs to be the very last thing removed and only after all of the work inside the park is completed, whenever that will be.
  - c) Signage should be at the parking lot area and other locations TBD.
  - d) We looked at the area in the corner of Nickles and Park Streets to relocate the couple of composite picnic tables we have left over and have some type of graded and natural surface there but not concrete. We have got a history of 30+ years of not being able to maintain anything that is not natural.
  - e) That being said, keeping the playground equipment means we need to have some type of inspection and preventative maintenance plan to make sure it is kept in good and safe condition.

William O. Scoggins, Jr., MBA, MPA, Mayor \* Susan Powell, Town Council \* Jana Burton, Town Council \* Tisha Hill, Town Council \* Carol Ellis., Town Council \* Morgan Davenport, Town Clerk



## TOWN OF DONALDS

Office of the Mayor and Town Council  
P.O. Box 275  
Donalds, SC 29638-0275

### **Executive Summary on Dunlap Park April 7, 2025**

In conclusion, we do have three interested and very qualified engineering firms bidding on the project, so we are in decent shape. As mentioned, Tisha and I have already done a site visit with Landart, and they have history with the town. Davis & Floyd and EarthDesign are scheduled to visit the week of April 14<sup>th</sup>, so we should be able to get bids on the engineering drawings in the next couple of months. Once that is completed and we select a firm, they will then need to produce layouts and design concepts to present to us. Once the layout is ready, we then need to discuss the actual landscape designers who will come in and do the work. We also need to discuss our budget and allocate the funds once we get to the actual drawing and concept phase with the winning bidder for the drawings.

---

William O. Scoggins, Jr., MBA, MPA,  
Mayor, Town of Donalds

Enclosures: Donalds Town Council Request for Proposal (RFP) & Request for Quote (RFQ)

Cc: Tripp Padgett, Town Attorney, Town of Donalds  
Andy Price, Abbeville County Zoning and Planning Director  
Naomi Reed, Field Services Manager, Municipality Association of South Carolina

William O. Scoggins, Jr., MBA, MPA, Mayor \* Susan Powell, Town Council \* Jana Burton, Town Council \*  
Tisha Hill, Town Council \* Carol Ellis., Town Council \* Morgan Davenport, Town Clerk