

Crestline Neighborhood Association Minutes
May 28, 2026
6:00 pm Fellowship Hall
Hope Community Church

Call to order by President Todd Russell.

Roll Call- please sign in on sheets at back.

22 people were present.

A motion was made to accept the Agenda by Terry Thrailkill. It was seconded by Kathy Wales. All were in favor.

A motion was made to accept the Minutes of our April 23, 2026 meeting by Amy McMullen. It was seconded by John Trott. All were in favor.

City Council:

India Bailey said that there have been rain delays regarding the completion of the Shades Creek Trail. There is now a half day's-worth of paving remaining to be done completely. After that, clean up and landscaping will be done. The fencing work is coming along slowly. She is hoping there will be enough dry days to get the trail opened by the end of June.

She said it has come to their attention that some citizens on Winston Way have taken it upon themselves to act as a BDOT employee and create street stripes on their road. She said that if anyone knows who it is to please discourage them from doing that. Because the BDOT has to go out and fix that.

India also said that their office is aware of the current homeless issues in our neighborhood and they are trying to get help with cleanup in those areas. She gave her phone number as (205) 254-2348 and encouraged us to contact her with further questions and reporting anything new.

New Business:

Alanah Melton, Director of Unhoused Strategies told us that she is aware of the homeless issues in our neighborhood that India discussed. Their office has been in existence since November of last year. They have added staff this year. It's a small team they have that is working on the strategy of the city's unhoused population. She was asked for any new details about the Purple Onion. She explained that they have just gotten the information today about it and they contacted the police about it. It is private property, so they will contact the property owner as required by law. They have a street outreach team who can move the folks along and offer them services.

They handle all 99 neighborhoods. They have a website now that is on the city's web page. Their roadmap for homelessness is listed there.

One thing they are working on is shareable feeding ordinances where folks can only feed in certain designated areas. That will hopefully help us regain control of our parks and some of our public spaces. They have also introduced to the city council a "No camping in public spaces ordinance" that will allow them to interact with people particularly in our parks and state right-of-ways.

We currently have 500 people unhoused that are sleeping outside. There are 1,000 unhoused people who are living in shelters or a shelter program. Their goal is to find housing options for the 500 that are sleeping outside. There are 100 young people (18 - 24 year olds) that are unhoused because of being runaways or they are out of foster care. When we finish the school year, we will have 777 children without housing.

She mentioned several agencies that can help with homeless issues: One Roof, Urban Alchemy, First Light Shelter, JBS Crisis Center, Pathways and Firehouse. She discourages people from giving money to the homeless and instead direct them to some of these agencies that can help the person in better ways.

New Business (Cont'd):

Tanner Parsons's CPCF Update:

Good evening.

For those who don't know me, my name is Tanner Parsons. I currently serve as President of the Crestline Park Community Foundation Board. The current board members are:

- Tanner Parsons
- John Trott
- David Burt
- Bartlett Walker

I appreciate the opportunity to address the neighborhood this evening and to provide a transparent explanation for the cancellation of the Crestline Park Groove event.

The decision to cancel the event was driven by two primary factors: unsustainable budget overruns and serious breakdowns in board governance caused by repeated actions taken without board approval and disregard for established bylaws and board authority.

Initial planning for the Groove was based on a \$10,000 budget. As planning progressed, projected costs escalated to approximately \$20,000 due to actions taken by Todd Russell, then Vice President, who added additional musical acts and other expenses without board approval or consensus. It quickly became clear that the Foundation could not responsibly raise the necessary funding in the short time available.

Multiple pledged contributions were withdrawn or withheld due to serious concerns about Todd Russell's actions as President of the Crestline Neighborhood Association (CNA). Several donors and entities explicitly stated that they would not support the Crestline Park Groove, or any future Foundation events, as long as Todd remained on the board. This barrier to funding appears to remain in place while Todd serves as President of the Crestline Neighborhood Association.

Beyond the issues already described, Todd's pattern of acting without full board consultation created additional problems for the Foundation. Specific examples include the following:

- Insisting on specific performers (Huck & Lilly and Rolling in the Hay) and a non-negotiable date of May 9th, while rejecting proposals to reduce the number of acts or adjust the schedule.
- Failing to follow through on fundraising or execution after the group agreed to cap the budget at \$12,000 and remove one act (Slacker Bees).
- Claiming a binding agreement existed with Huck & Lilly despite the absence of any written confirmation. As Vice President, Todd lacked the authority under the Foundation bylaws to bind the organization to such agreements.
- Contacting Ken Johnson to book Huck & Lilly and committing to Stephen Knight as promoter before the full board had the opportunity to consider other options.
- Proposing a personal loan to the Foundation for expenses the majority of the board did not support, despite clear direction that the Foundation would not accept loans.
- Continuing to push for the full-scale event in the April 19th meeting after the majority of the board determined it was not feasible.
- Depositing personal funds into the Foundation's bank account and directing the Treasurer to issue a check to pay the promoter, Stephen Knight—an action that violated the bylaws' \$1,000 limit on discretionary spending per member and created potential compliance risks.
- Continuing to advance event planning after the board had decided to cancel the Groove, contrary to Todd's earlier statement that he wanted the President to make final decisions.

After Todd's resignation from the Foundation board, I received a notebook containing documents from prior board members. I reached out to former board members to gather complete historical information. I learned that an earlier board had submitted a group resignation letter in early December 2025. In that letter, they stated: "After careful deliberation, we have concluded that our perspectives no longer align sufficiently to enable effective collaboration moving forward." This information was never disclosed to the incoming board. Todd, who was responsible for presenting those resignations to the board for formal acceptance and recording in the minutes as required under Robert's Rules of Order, never did so at our January 2026 meeting. This omission violated standard procedure and left the new board unaware of the prior board's collective action and the reasons behind it.

Separately, when I contacted former board members, I learned that Todd had incorrectly established the Foundation as a 501(c)(4) instead of the intended 501(c)(3). When this error was discovered by the board in December 2024, Todd assured everyone that cost would not be an issue because he would personally cover the setup costs as a donation and that the board should not worry about the expense of converting it to a 501(c)(3). This information was particularly puzzling in light of his later request that the new board reimburse him for those same costs.

Following Todd's resignation, he sent an email to the Board requesting reimbursement of approximately \$8,942.13 for expenses he claimed to have advanced. Many of these items, including \$3,500 for Huck & Lilly and a \$5,000 Groove festival deposit, do not correspond to expenses approved in board minutes or the financial limits previously agreed upon by the board.

This request, viewed alongside the pattern of conduct outlined above, presents a clear and serious conflict of interest. As President of the Crestline Neighborhood Association, Todd holds a position that requires impartial leadership and faithful stewardship of neighborhood resources. It is incompatible with that responsibility to simultaneously pursue substantial, unapproved reimbursement demands that would financially burden the very Foundation established to serve and support this neighborhood.

This concern is further illustrated by Todd's April 22, 2026 email to Whitney Mullen at the City of Birmingham, in which he stated that the Crestline Park Community Foundation would produce new neighborhood yard signs to advertise CNA meetings, thereby relieving the CNA of using its own funds. Todd's commitment was made without approval from the Foundation board or the CNA membership, even though the CNA had voted in January 2025 to fund the signs through neighborhood resources. The action bypassed the governance processes of both organizations.

These repeated actions without board approval violated Section 3.9.2 of the bylaws, which states that the Vice President shall not have the power to execute instruments or documents on behalf of the Foundation except upon resolution of the Board of Directors. They also constituted repeated violations of board authority, providing good cause for removal under Section 2.7.1 of the bylaws. Todd systematically undermined the core governance structure of the organization.

Based on the foregoing actions, the other board members determined that good cause existed for Todd's removal. I approached him about the option of removal. Todd offered his resignation in lieu of the Board having to take that unfortunate next step.

This pattern of conduct demonstrates a consistent prioritization of personal preferences over the fiduciary duties owed to the Foundation and the neighborhood it serves. It is regrettable that we must address these issues regarding Todd Russell, who currently serves as President of the Crestline Neighborhood Association. However, the board believes it is important for the community to understand what happened, the corrective actions we have taken, and how we are moving forward.

I personally recovered the deposit from the promoter, Stephen Knight, to ensure the Foundation faced no further legal or financial exposure. Mr. Knight was very helpful during this process.

As for good news from the Foundation, we are excited to host "Yoga in the Park" on Saturday, June 20th, led by Crestline Park resident Ashley Anthony. Be on the lookout for more information. In the meantime, please plan to bring your own mat to the park.

We are also in the early planning stages for a community fundraising event on Saturday, October 17th. We are grateful for the assistance of our event organizer and look forward to providing additional details soon.

To strengthen and sustain our work, please consider helping the Foundation achieve our goals. We need:

- Board members
- Financial contributions
- Volunteers

Please reach out to me or our secretary (who has my contact information) to get in touch. Thank you for your continued support of the Crestline Park Community Foundation.

I suspect some of you have questions. Before we open the floor for discussion, I move that we turn the floor over to John Trott for his report.

John Trott's Report:

Ladies and gentlemen, what we're dealing with here is massive incompetence and self-serving issues. I can't say a lot because I have consulted an attorney as treasurer of the Foundation. But I will say this; I will make it my life's mission to remove this man from this post. And that's all I can say right now.

There were discussions and questions about the purchase of the new Crestline NA meeting signs. Tanner and John both confirmed the information that Tanner explained in his report about the sign purchase. John added an additional comment that the thing that's most disturbing is that that this community deserves a lot better than what we are getting from our Neighborhood Association. He said that he has seen many, many people discouraged and disparaged. There were things said that were not true. John said that he has every minute, every text message, every email from this man and how he's operated and it's going to get fixed. And he's going to leave. I promise you that.

Tanner assured everyone that that even though the Foundation and the Neighborhood Association are separate entities, the Foundation will be attending our meetings monthly to give us updates.

Additional Reports:

One person spoke up about an issue that is showing up in social media about a person nicknamed "The Flower Lady". She walks around several neighborhoods daily stealing the flowers and potted plants from people's yards. She said that her yard was hit by her today. Another member stated that they have seen the same post about her for several years in a row. People want to find out who her family is so that the problem can be stopped because it is often costing people money to replace what she steals. Todd said that if anyone wants to reach out to him after the meeting, he will give them the whole story. He was asked if he could talk to the family to try and stop this issue. He replied yes.

Someone mentioned the fact that there is a sign missing in Crestline Park. The sign stated the mileage for the walking/jogging track of how many laps make a mile. He asked what can be done. Todd told him about the 311 app he should use. It allows you to take a picture of the problem with a description. It will get sent straight to Public Works and they'll take care of it pretty quickly. Todd told him he would take care of it. Also, Todd said we have a neighbor who is working with Parks and Recreation to get other things replaced in the park.

Don Ferguson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Todd adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm. Our next CNA meeting will be Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 6:00 PM.

Submitted by Marion Barnett, Crestline NA Secretary

The Neighborhood Association is an administrator on the Facebook Page

[www.Facebook.com/WhatsHappeningInCrestlinePark](https://www.facebook.com/WhatsHappeningInCrestlinePark)

Our Crestline Neighborhood website can be found at www.crestlinena.org

Note: Our meeting has been recorded and can be found on our YouTube channel here:

https://youtu.be/s_d95zq1bXk

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