

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
4:00 p.m. | October 8, 2025
City Hall

MINUTES

Attendance: Council Member Tyler Agniel, Council Member Cole Robinson; Committee: Greg Bortnick, David Gleason, Diane Mares, Matthew Moeder, Andrew Mohn, Kevin Murphy; Staff: Meghan Boom, James Carney, Melissa Prenger

Public Participation – None

Reports

1. Chairperson’s Report – Chairman Tyler Agniel opened the meeting.
2. Recreation Report – Ms. Boom reported that the City Committee application process will take place in a bit later this year with applications beginning in January. Appointment will still be scheduled to occur in February/March. Half the committee is up for reappointment each year. She reminded committee members that there is an attendance requirement of 75% of the meetings. If you no longer wish to participate on the committee, please let staff and the Council Chairs know.

Ms. Boom reported that the compost pilot program has been extremely successful. Last spring, the committee approved the placement of compost bins within the park system, and two bins were placed at Harmon Park, near the skate park, and Wassmer Park. The program launched in July of 2025 has exceeded expectations with more than 10 tons of waste diverted from the landfill and almost 500 program participants. The City Council approved the expansion of the program to include the placement of three additional bins. A survey of the community is exploring potential locations with Franklin and Porter parks as the front runners.

The committee supported more diverse locations throughout the city with easy to access parking.

3. Public Works Report—Mr. Carney provided an update:
 - Rubber mulch in the 5-12 play area of Windsor Park being removed this week. Replacing with kiddie cushion mulch. All other parks have received the yearly refreshing of kiddie cushion in the play areas.
 - Tree trimming was completed at Franklin Park, Porter Park, Wassmer Park, and the old playground area of Harmon Park this summer.
 - Fence installation for City Hall basketball court completed.
 - Aeration and over-seeding occurring at all parks.
 - Play stream at Franklin has been closed down for the season.
 - Statue covers being installed in November.

- Franklin Park nature play has been replaced.
- Bennett Park receiving new benches and tables.
- Upgrade of disc golf course at Harmon Park in-progress, back to nine holes.

Consent Agenda

1. Minutes from May 14, 2025 – Mr. Mohn moved to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Bortnick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business – None

New Business

1. 2025 Recreation Report

Ms. Buum reviewed the 2025 Summer Recreation Report, highlighting the following items related to the aquatics complex and programs:

- Overall, it was another great summer, and the bather load was the highest on record by a few hundred swimmers despite a cold start to the year – we didn't reach 80 degrees until mid-June which impacted the ability to open.
 - The City uses a combined air and water temperature of 130 degrees to determine opening. This was the first time in Ms. Buum's tenure that the policy was invoked. A change in policy to increase that threshold will likely be considered in advance of the 2026 season.
- Membership sales were slightly down from the previous season, but still higher than average.
- The SuperPass program saw fewer visitors overall both to and from Prairie Village. Fairway and Mission both experienced a slight decrease as well.
- Participation in the swim and dive programs remained steady.
- In 2024, the City brought the youth swim lessons program in-house, and we saw good growth in that program in its second year.

Ms. Buum provided a 2025 look ahead:

- Despite hiring around 15 more guards than previous years, staffing levels continue to struggle during the month of August.
- Prairie Village is one of the few pools in our area that opens every weekday once school is back in session. Staff is not currently suggesting a change to our reduced hours policy.
- Hiring adult staff for management positions is becoming more challenging. Staff is working now to get the pool management team set for 2026

Ms. Buum reported on other programs:

- Skateboarding 101 continues to be popular. The first session overlapped with spring break in the Shawnee Mission School District, which led to the only session that was not sold out. The conflict will be avoided moving forward. The instructor experienced an injury that required the city to cancel the last session of the year.

- Junior Tennis League had been experiencing a decline in participation but experienced a bounce back in 2025. An assistant coach was added to help manage the program.
- The partnership with JCPRD for youth tennis lessons and day camp at Harmon Park continues to be successful and valuable to the community.

The committee shared a desire to see an increase in the number of lounges on the pool deck, and an improved sound system as the music is extremely loud in certain areas but difficult to hear in others.

2. Windsor Park Trail Discussion – Ms. Prenger reported that the city received \$200,000 in federal funds for trail improvements at Windsor Park to include improved connection to the senior center, ADA compliance, and expansion of the existing trail to eight feet wide. It originally proposed to use concrete for the trail. When presented to the governing body, a council member suggested using asphalt for the trail for ease of walking. A change in material would not impact receipt of funding. Public works will bid both concrete and asphalt so the governing body can make a materials decision at the time of award. A council member also inquired about pour-in-place soft surface, typically seen on playgrounds, for the trail. It is more expensive as it requires both concrete and the soft surface material. Additionally, public works would not be able to maintain the surface internally unlike asphalt and concrete.

Diane Mares supported exploring soft surface as a third option because of the comfort of walking on this type of material. Mr. Gleason expressed concern over the cost, with limited difference in ease on the joints except for serious runners and athletes. Council Members Agniel and Robinson expressed a preference for concrete and asphalt. In an informal show of hands, the majority of committee members present preferred exploring just asphalt and concrete. Ms. Mares preferred exploring the third option.

Information Items

Matt Moeder moved to cancel the November 12, 2025 meeting. Andy Mohn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment