

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2026
Community Room, Library**

MEMBERS' PRESENT:

Scott Cranston, Chair
Christie Wood
Bridget Hill
Jim Lien
Mason TerDoest, Student Rep

ABSENT:

Mike McDowell
Ginny Tate
Warren Bakes

STAFF PRESENT:

Adam Rouse, Interim Parks & Recreation Director
Melissa Brandt, Administrative Assistant
Barry Porath, Parks Superintendent

GUESTS:

Phil Boyd
Will Osborne
Doug Eastwood
Tom Torgerson

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Cranston called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Five members present resulting in a quorum.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Wood led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *Action Item*

Commissioner Wood made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2026, meeting, Commissioner TerDoest seconded the motion, there being no further discussion and all being in favor, motion passed unanimously.

5. STAFF COMMENTS

Superintendent Porath provided an update on current Parks Division activities: cleanup operations will begin throughout the park system, including landscape beds and boulevards. The department is working with the Water Department to install a new irrigation water meter at Atlas Park. The meter will help ensure compliance and should be operational by spring. The I-90 Corridor Irrigation Rebuild project is approximately 75% complete. Landscaping and irrigation impacted by I-90 interchange improvements will be restored through transportation project funding. The playground turf project has been delayed slightly due to material availability but remains on schedule. Staff are exploring expanding the turf installation to include an adjacent high-use area formerly covered with wood chips. Ongoing concerns regarding vandalism at park facilities were discussed. Recent incidents at Memorial Baseball Park, City Park Bandshell, and Major Family Restrooms resulted in approximately \$1,750 in repair and cleanup costs.

Staff are coordinating with law enforcement to identify strategies to address recurring vandalism issues.

Director Rouse provided additional updates: Storm-damaged trees continue to be removed and replaced, with FEMA reimbursement expected. The Trails Park project estimate came in higher than anticipated. Staff will reevaluate the project scope and design. Progress continues with the Special Needs Recreation partnership with Cherry Hill property. Fall soccer registration exceeded 600 participants. Basketball season planning is underway. Jordan Anderson was promoted to Recreation Superintendent, creating a vacant Recreation Coordinator position. Interviews were conducted to fill the vacancy. Another recreation staff vacancy has also been posted. A proposal to elevate the Building Maintenance Superintendent position to full superintendent-level is scheduled for City Council consideration. The Jewett House is nearing the end of its event season. And staff are reviewing operational efficiencies related to support of the Arts Commission. Commissioners discussed the transition of Arts Commission staff support back to Parks and Recreation. Staff noted efforts are underway to improve efficiencies and reduce administrative burdens while continuing support for the commission.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

None.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Former Parks Director Doug Eastwood commended Parks Director Rouse and Parks Superintendent Porath for the recently completed renovation of the City Park Bandshell floor. He noted the quality of workmanship exceeded expectations and recommended formally recognizing both staff and contractors involved in the project.

8. RE-ESTABLISH PARKS & REC WORKSHOPS-CITY PARK & TRAIL – *Information Item*

Director Rouse introduced discussion regarding restoring Recreation Commission workshops and using the workshop format to address the City Park seawall/trail project. Discussion included: Forming a project advisory committee; Community involvement opportunities; Development of goals and objectives for the seawall and trail improvements; Potential scheduling of a workshop in late September.

Community member Tom Torgerson expressed strong support for moving the project forward and noted interest from several organizations and private partners willing to assist with funding and project development.

Commissioners agreed workshops would provide an appropriate forum to further develop project objectives, timelines, and committee structure.

9. HREI BUILDING GRANT – *Information Item*

Director Rouse reported that the Historical Preservation Commission secured a \$65,000 grant for maintenance and restoration work on the HREI Building. Planned improvements include: Brick and mortar restoration; Historical brick matching and repair; Exterior maintenance to preserve the building's historic character.

10. LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND UPDATE – *Information Item*

Director Rouse an update regarding compliance issues associated with prior Land and Water Conservation Fund conversions. Historical park land and facility changes left the City out of compliance with grant requirements. A meeting is being scheduled with Land and Water Conservation Fund representatives in October, Commissioners will be notified about the meeting so they may attend. Compliance is necessary for future grant eligibility.

11. IGNITE FUNDING-JOHNSON MILL RIVER – *Information Item*

Director Rouse and Phill Boyd and Will Osborne of the Ignite CDA river district presented conceptual plans for improvements at Johnson Mill River Park. Potential improvements include shoreline stabilization and erosion control, trail realignment and connectivity improvements, enhanced landscaping and beautification, improved parking, restroom facilities, additional park amenities including seating and shelters, and protected swimming area improvements and permanent dock concepts.

Will Osborne indicated funding may be available through the district's closeout process, with project planning targeted before the river district sunsets in 2027.

12. NEXT MEETING / ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Cranston announced the next meeting date.

Next meeting date:

- Monday, October 19, 2026: 5:30 p.m., Meeting; Library Community Room

Commissioner Hill made a motion to adjourn the meeting Commissioner TerDoest seconded the motion. There being no further discussion, motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.