

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – October 2, 2025

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite

Roll Call

Board Members Present: William Findlay
Kyle Gardner
Chandler Smith
Anna Stout
Nancy Strippel
Josh Travers
Lisa Whalin
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent: Cindy Enos-Martinez

City Staff Present: Ken Sherbenou, Director of Parks and Recreation
Emily Krause, Recreation Superintendent
Allison Little, Administrative Specialist

Meeting called to order by Nancy Strippel at 12:03 p.m.

Approve minutes from the September 2025 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Bill Findlay made a motion to approve the minutes of the September meeting. The motion was seconded by Lisa Whalin and carried unanimously.

Yes – 6

No – 0

(Chandler Smith and Anna Stout arrived just after the vote on the minutes.)

CRC Outdoor Facilities Phase

Ken Sherbenou shared information about the Outdoor Facility Phase of the CRC. Staff are continually reviewing and modifying the project to ensure it stays within the \$2.8 million budget, including soft costs. Current amenities include, overflow parking, full size synthetic turf field with a walkway connecting to the fire lane and berm landscaping both for seating and to further ensure the championship feel.

This initial phase only addresses a small portion of Matchett. Future expansion of the park will be phased in over time. The soft costs accounted for in the project are mostly design. Two irrigation lines including the new lateral to feed the CRC pond and take care of all the related irrigation needs is in the budget. Moving the other lateral to the west, is not included at this time. Staff are in conversation with a potential donor which could change the included amenities, but no pledge has been finalized at this time.

Lisa Whalin made a motion to support the outdoor facilities phase budget at \$2.8 million. The motion was seconded by Josh Travers and carried unanimously.

Yes – 8

No – 0

Fountain Conversion

Ken Sherbenou shared pictures of downtown fountains which have already been converted to planting spaces. The next fountain that staff are working on is at City Hall. The sculpture which rises above the fountain will be relocated and staff are working with the Art and Culture Commission to choose a location. The current fountain will become a planter.

Downtown Splash Pad Conversion

Ken Sherbenou reminded the board that staff were working on a fire pit amenity for the downtown splash pad conversion but there was no way to arrange the amenities with enough distance between the fire pit and play elements. Staff are looking into a play structure created by the same vendor who created the humpback chub structure in Dos Rios Park. The current curb line will not be affected which should create cost savings. Demo and construction is anticipated to begin next month.

Stadium Open Plaza Concept

Ken Sherbenou talked with the board about the stadium partner entities' desire to create an open plaza at the south entrance to the stadium. This would include removing the current brick ticket building, rebuilding it to the western side and opening up the space to improve flow and security. It would shorten the island so that the front entrance can be pulled forward. Stadium partners would share funding for this project and the City has proposed \$125,000 in the capital improvement budget to cover an anticipated 20% of the project. Board members wonder how these changes might impact the football project CMU is proposing near the end zone. Staff think the proposals could tie in to each other. CMU is one of the partner entities involved in the open plaza discussion.

Organization Chart Review

This item was tabled until a future meeting.

For the Good of the Community

Board members wondered if the City is nearing a hiring freeze similar to other entities in the area. Ken shared that the City is evaluating every vacancy very carefully. Staff are proposing a couple of new positions for Parks Custodians in the 2026 budget that are funded with dollars previously earmarked for seasonal positions. There is also a full time vacancy that is not being filled at this time. No currently filled positions are affected at this time.

Adjourn by acclamation at 1:15

Next Meeting – November 6, 2025

The January 1, 2026 meeting is being rescheduled to January 15, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Ali Little, Administrative Specialist