

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes Regular Meeting – August 6, 2026

Meeting Location: Hospitality Suite – Lincoln Park Tower

Roll Call

Board Members Present: Cindy Enos-Martinez
William Findlay
Kyle Gardner
Cayman Haltiner
Chandler Smith
Nancy Strippel
Josh Travers
Lisa Whalin
Byron Wiehe

Board Members Absent: Anna Stout

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

Guests:

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

Approve minutes from the July 2026 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

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

Yes – 9 No – 0

Regular Agenda Topics

True West: Outdoor Recreation Coalition Master Plan

Chandler, executive director of the Grand Valley Outdoor Recreation Coalition, presented “True West,” a shared vision and master plan for outdoor recreation in the Grand Valley. The goal is to bring together municipalities, land managers, recreation groups, stewardship organizations, businesses and other stakeholders to better coordinate outdoor recreation efforts.

The plan will include an audit of recreation infrastructure, identification of approximately 10 priority projects for the next 10 years, strategies for improving collaboration and stewardship, and an examination of new funding opportunities. The process is intended to complement existing BLM, state, county, and local plans rather than replace them.

The coalition is also conducting a community survey and stakeholder workshops to gather input on recreation habits, concerns, and priorities.

2027 Proposed CIP

Ken Sherbenou presented the 2027 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) which focuses on major one-time capital projects for Parks and Recreation. Funding comes from several dedicated sources, including cannabis revenue, the recreation center sales tax, Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) dollars, and parkland impact fees.

Key proposed projects include a second greenhouse at Las Colonias Park, parking lot and pavement repairs at several smaller parks including Westlake, Duck Pond Park and Eagle Rim, increased funding for playground repairs, replacement of the Rocket Park playground surface, and continued turf-to-native landscaping conversions.

A major concern is the reduction in impact-fee revenue, projected to fall from about \$1.2 million to \$758,000 in 2027. New requirements also divide those fees among parkland, open space, and park improvements, limiting how much can be used for general park improvements. The city expects revenue to increase as the new fee structure phases in.

The Riverfront Trail completion is a major priority, with the city contributing roughly \$675,000 toward the project funded through multiple grants and partners. Other projects, including the Westlake Playground replacement, have been delayed because the city lacks sufficient matching funds.

Officer Elections

Cindy Enos-Martinez nominated Kyle Gardner for Chair. Nancy Strippel seconded the nomination. The board voted unanimously to elect Kyle Gardner as Chair.

Yes – 9 No – 0

Lisa Whalin nominated Chandler Smith for Vice Chair. Bill Findlay seconded the nomination. The board voted unanimously to elect Chandler Smith as Vice Chair.

Yes – 9 No - 0

Matchett Park Bike Park Survey Results

Ken presented the results of the Matchett Park Bike Park Survey which showed generally strong community support for keeping and improving the bike park, although participation was lower than some previous city surveys.

- 56% strongly supported the bike park and 25% supported it while about 12% opposed it.
- About 47% felt the bike park has a positive impact on the community, while 33% saw little or no impact, 9% mixed impact and 10% negative impact
- Roughly half of respondents live within walking distance, and 52% reported visiting the park weekly.
- Dog walking and hiking were the most common activities, followed by running and bike riding and a small percentage of disc golf usage.

- 70% considered keeping the bike park open and maintained extremely or very important.

The survey was intended to help determine whether the community supports formalizing the currently unsanctioned bike park and potentially working with COPMOBA to develop it. The board generally viewed the results positively, particularly because the concept aligns with the park's master plan.

There was also discussion about improving trails, signage, connections, and safety around the park, including conflicts between biking, hiking, and disc golf.

The city is not currently taking operational responsibility for the bike park, and the city attorney indicated that liability concerns are relatively limited because the city did not build or directly operate the bike park.

Proposed Outdoor Dining Area Next to Goat and Clover

Ken showed the board preliminary plans of the proposed outdoor seating area by Goat and Clover. He emphasized that the proposal was very preliminary and should not yet be presented to nearby businesses as a done deal.

The proposed arrangement would give the restaurant exclusive use of the space and allow it to operate it according to its business hours.

The principal concern raised was pedestrian/restaurant-service conflicts: servers carrying food would need to cross a relatively narrow pedestrian area. It was noted that other restaurants operate outdoor seating without encountering many issues.

There was also a fairness/equal-treatment concern: the city should not appear to be picking Goat & Clover as a favored business over neighboring businesses. The counterpoint was that if the approach works, other restaurants could potentially make similar use of space in front of their businesses, improving the overall downtown environment.

The discussion ended generally positively, with the group agreeing that the proposal was worth continuing to explore.

For the Good of the Community

The board discussed negative publicity about dead trees at the CRC and poor turf conditions at Canyon View park. Ken Sherbenou explained that Canyon View's problems stem from irrigation failures, extreme weather, delayed water, and unusually heavy use, including additional high-school sports.

Staff plan to close and reseed three fields this fall, improve irrigation, and communicate the reasons and restoration plans to user groups and the public.

Ken explained that trees were planted at the CRC during the summer in unfavorable planting conditions due to CO requirements. Landscaping must be substantially completed before a building can receive its certificate of occupancy. Waiting for the ideal fall planting window could therefore delay opening the building. Planting has generally been successful though, with a relatively small percentage of trees needing replacement. The trees are under warranty, and staff are selecting replacement varieties for replacement this fall.

The group emphasized the importance of proactive communication to address misinformation and public concerns.

Ken updated the board that the 2026 Community Satisfaction Survey found that 66% of respondents supported putting the Orchard Mesa Pool issue on the ballot. Staff are recommending a November 3 ballot measure to repair and replace the existing pool systems, without adding new features. The project is estimated at \$11.6 million, with a proposed 0.07% sales tax increase over 15 years to fund construction. If voters reject the measure, the pool would likely close at the end of December.

A concern was raised about handicapped parking at Lincoln Pool. The markings are faded and may not be clearly visible, and some vehicles without handicap permits appear to be using the spaces. This is creating difficulty for disabled and older visitors crossing safely to the pool. Staff said they would contact Streets and Park Patrol to address the issue and review whether the number of accessible spaces is adequate.

Ken Sherbenou let the board know that the grand opening of the CRC is scheduled for September 25, with an invite-only preview event on September 10 and a public soft opening on September 12.

Before opening, the department will move customer service staff to the new rec center and offer guided tours beginning around August 24. Volunteers will be trained to lead or assist with tours, which are intended to showcase the facility and encourage membership sign-ups.

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:24pm

Next Meeting – September 3, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Wirth, Administrative Specialist