

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 15, 2025 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Mike Wise, Chair
Liz Sinatra, Vice Chair
Daryl Dykens, Member
Kent Gordon, Member
Jayne Stitik, Member

STAFF PRESENT: Mandy Edmunds, Interim Recreation Director
Ginny Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk
Frances Robustelli, City Manager

Chair Wise called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Approval of the Agenda –

Motion: Member Dykens moved, and Member Gordon seconded to approve the July 15, 2025 agenda as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

2. Audience Comments – There were no comments.

3. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes – May 27, 2025

Motion: Member Gordon moved, and Member Dykens seconded to approve the May 27, 2025 minutes as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

4. Items for Discussion

a. Staff Report from the May 27, 2025 Meeting

Interim Recreation Director Mandy Edmunds reviewed a presentation for the committee, which is part of the meeting record. She began by outlining the powers and duties of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee per city code, including the protection, enhancement and beautification of city owned property and rights-of-way, city recreational activities (marketing strategies, revenue generation, expenditures, partnerships), programs and methods of improving them, and the protection and maintenance of the system of parks and recreation facilities.

Ms. Edmund's presentation continued with the proposed budget for FY2025-26. The City Commission as well as Finance and Budget Committee have been in the process of review. Parks, beaches, recreation, and aquatics now fall under the Public Services Department. Key points that she noted were that staff led programs are projected to produce \$192K in revenue, permit fees estimated at \$12K, and sport leagues are limited for the year. Pool admissions are projected at \$39K and instructor fees at \$19K. Community center rental fees are projected at \$50K; all programs are currently using one building. The Community Club previously made donations for summer camp; that has been kept in the budget but is still being investigated.

Vice Chair Sinatra inquired about beach wedding fees; Ms. Edmunds explained that they vary from

\$25 - \$250 according to size and location, however, a fee study is in process for all programs and events.

Ms. Edmunds continued to show the projected expenses for parks and beach maintenance. She noted a proposed decrease in personnel in recreation and aquatics due to an organizational change, and a proposed overall recreation budget reduction from this year (\$1.7M) to next (\$1.1M). The gym and fitness room are still down, which primarily limits basketball, pickleball and after school programs. Some programs being brought back are senior excursions, lunches, and some classes. Ms. Edmunds lastly noted a slight reduction in pool admissions and a slight increase in lifeguards for FY2025-26.

b. Post Storm Report and Work Orders

Ms. Edmunds walked through a timeline of monthly recovery milestones from November 2024 to the present. She explained that residents are encouraged to use SeeClickFix as their primary reporting method to request maintenance and repairs on public property. There is an internal work order system generated from there. Ms. Edmunds agreed that it may be time for a refresher on the website on how to download the app and utilize the system. Member Gordon suggested adding the QR code signs on public property. Ms. Edmunds reminded the committee that some responsibilities belong to the county and are forwarded to them for completion and close-out; the city is streamlining the process.

Ms. Edmunds concluded by communicating the staff recommendation that the committee continue to meet in May (to discuss the budget, programs, and co-sponsored events) and November (on maintenance, amenities, and facilities), which covers the scope of this committee.

Chair Wise commented that aside from himself, all members were new to the committee at the last meeting and today's meeting was added to discuss how the committee can become more active and engaged in their duties. Member Dykens voiced that two meetings annually are not enough, with parks, such as Egan, needing attention. Egan is a highly visible park with considerable usage by boaters and needs rehabilitation.

Member Gordon requested a status on FEMA reimbursements for the gym, fitness center, and other recreational facilities. City Manager Frances Robustelli was present and informed the committee that an update was provided to the City Commission at their last meeting on insurance claims that were placed and reimbursed to date. Full reimbursement has been received on all the roof damage for facilities; those are set to be replaced in the next several weeks. Approximate damage to all facilities combined was \$2.2M, including the gym floor, weight room, and Warren Webster; all facilities received some damage. The city and the insurance company are still approximately \$.5M apart, much like individual homeowners, and working to close the gap. Some of the repairs are underway, but staff have been advised not to get too far ahead to protect cash flow and savings in preparation for the next storm season.

Ms. Robustelli went on to explain that some of the other advisory boards will meet on an as needed basis in addition to their regularly scheduled meetings, and one will likely be coming for this committee after the recreation fee study has been completed. The city does subsidize those fees through ad valorem taxes and there will be some policy discussion about what level of subsidy the committee recommends and prioritizing programs in that regard. Ms. Edmunds can provide a few

weeks' notice to the committee prior to scheduling. The members were agreeable to that plan. Ms. Robustelli reminded the members that committee discussions must be in a public meeting setting, however staff may communicate with the members. Ms. Robustelli will ensure that the members receive the CM Ops weekly email for updates.

Member Gordon commented on the manicured appearance of Horan Park and the attention it receives and asked how that can be accomplished with the others. Ms. Edmunds explained that as Horan Park is the entryway to the city and heavily utilized for city events, it is a priority, however, the plan is to go into the other parks (McKenney, Vina, Egan, Lazarillo, etc.) to repair irrigation. Member Gordon requested that a copy of the plan is shared with the committee and updates provided periodically. He also suggested a group of workers vs. individuals deploy to parks. He encouraged staff to keep up their excellent work and expressed the appreciation of the residents.

Vice Chair Sinatra noted that several residents have reached out to her because they cannot track requests in SeeClickFix; it might be helpful to post status online. She also mentioned resident concerns with the jetty and cell towers. Based on those comments Ms. Robustelli suggested this committee have a meeting dedicated to parks maintenance prioritization and costs; she will create a comprehensive presentation to obtain committee feedback. Regarding cell towers, she commented that the state legislates how those may be installed, and local government has been stripped of control on that. Telecom companies negotiate with Duke Energy to co-locate with existing poles. The city is complying with state law and residents should contact their state representatives. Ms. Robustelli will follow up on how much camouflage the city could be allowed. The Duke Energy poles are a separate issue; there are currently double poles and when the new ones are energized, the old ones will be removed. Duke may still underground some services in the future.

Ms. Edmunds did not have current information on the jetty, other than it is closed, but will follow up. She reported that the FDEP has completed soil and debris sample reviews at Egan Park and determined that there was no evidence of pollutant release or contamination that would affect moving on to repair the irrigation and installation of Bahia grass. The city is moving forward with bids to restore the open space, and the bid submittal deadline is August 27th. General weed clean up and remediation will be addressed with the Public Services Director.

Chair Wise commented that this year's fireworks were phenomenal and thanked Ms. Edmunds.

5. Adjournment – Next Regular Meeting November 18, 2025

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

These minutes were approved at the November 18, 2025 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting.