

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

May 15, 2025

- 1) **Meeting called to order** by Taylor Hildenbrand at 4:02 p.m. at the MAC, Parks and Recreation Administration, 2733 Marilyn Williams Drive, Edmond, Oklahoma. The agenda for this meeting was posted in the City First Administration Building on May 12, 2025, at 1:01 p.m. An amended agenda was posted on May 13, 2025, at 10:40 a.m. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members present: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Sandra Naifeh, Rick Smith, Gena Money, Chris Anderson, Anthony Rose, and Laura Robertson. City of Edmond staff present: Assistant City Manager Andy Conyers. Parks and Recreation staff present: Brad Raney, Frank Hale, LeAnna Holman, and Cheryl Tettleton.
Absent: Sam Anderson, Jerel Cowan, and Earl London
- 2) **Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes – April 17, 2025.** Gena Money motioned to approve the minutes; Gary Bartley seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**
AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Sandra Naifeh, Rick Smith, Gena Money, Chris Anderson, Anthony Rose, and Laura Robertson
NAYS: None
- 3) **Chitwood Park and Barnett Field Project.** Presented by Brad Raney and Frank Hale.
 - a. **Discussion and Consideration to Support a Project Understanding for Park Enhancements.** There has been a lot of development in the area. The Stormwater department is planning some improvements to their system and is conducting a drainage study. With the potential for a portion of the park to be dug up for a stormwater project in the future, it seems like a good time to prepare a plan for how we might like the park to look when it is put back together. The idea is to engage stakeholders such as neighborhood residents, park visitors, and students at Ida Freeman Elementary to get their ideas and suggestions. This could happen through online or in-person surveys or small park events. The Parks board would review the suggestions and provide feedback for staff to use when engaging a design firm. Sandra mentioned the need to preserve the historic WPA stonework in any renovation. Gary Bartley motioned to support the project understanding; Gena Money seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**
AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Sandra Naifeh, Rick Smith, Gena Money, Chris Anderson, Anthony Rose, and Laura Robertson
NAYS: None
 - b. **Discussion and Consideration to Select a Board Member to Serve on the Project Team.** Gina Money volunteered, and Rick Smith nominated her to serve on the team; Sandra Naifeh seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**
AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Sandra Naifeh, Rick Smith, Gena Money, Chris Anderson, Anthony Rose, and Laura Robertson
NAYS: None
- 4) **Discussion and Consideration of the Draft Park Tax Budget.** Presented by Brad Raney. The Parks department has multiple budgets, with most of them falling under the General Fund. The exceptions are the lake, golf, and park tax. The park tax is a dedicated 1/8 cent sales tax, which raises about \$3 million per year. Approximately 2/3 of that money funds operations, maintenance, and subsidies for the lake and the YMCA competition pool. The remaining funds are used for one-time projects – major maintenance (Pelican Bay filters, Mitch trail

replacement), capitalized consulting, capital projects, and land improvements. Unlike the general fund budgets, what we don't use in the park tax budget goes into reserves, which we can carry over to future years. The city finance director suggested the reserve balance should contain enough for 3-4 months of operating costs (approx. \$700K). Our projected reserves balance will be about \$3 million at the end of this fiscal year. Major planned projects include finishing AC Caplinger (\$750K) and the Hafer Park pavilion and deck replacement (up to \$1M). Most other projects listed on the draft budget are major maintenance items. The project list remains as an adjustable draft. Items listed for this year are either done or will be encumbered by the end of the fiscal year. Next year's budget includes spending down reserves by about \$1 million. The park tax subsidizes any shortfalls in the Arcadia Lake budget. The listed transfer amount for this fiscal year makes up for missed transfers in previous years and will likely cover the upcoming year. The Mitch Park master plan agreement has a cost of \$125K and is currently with the legal department for review. Maintenance costs for the YMCA competition pool are shared with Edmond Public Schools. The KickingBird Golf parking listed under FY26 will be a small expansion, with crushed asphalt, adding about 30 spots south of pickleball for use by staff, which should relieve some pressure from the main lot. Additional improvements for Mitch ballparks would be some new sod and lighting. Tennis court resurfacing is for a rotating maintenance schedule of resurfacing six outdoor courts per year at a cost of about \$150K, split 50/50 with the school district. An Arcadia Lake master plan item is the need to increase potential revenue sources. A small investment to install some camping cabins could help to meet that need. The estimated cost is \$15K per cabin. Looking to refresh neighborhood parks and update one playground per year. The old wooden stage at Hafer Park needs to be removed, and we would like to redo this area as a small gathering space with horseshoe pits, concrete chess tables, or other things like that. Andy Conyers commended Brad's attention to improving maintenance of existing amenities. He also mentioned that one of the CIP funds expires in the spring of 2027. There will be an opportunity to discuss whether to renew it and what types of capital projects it could fund. Gary Bartley motioned to support the draft budget; Sandra Naifeh seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**

AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Sandra Naifeh, Rick Smith, Gena Money, Chris Anderson, Anthony Rose, and Laura Robertson

NAYS: None

- 5) **Discussion and Consideration to Elect a Non-Voting Liaison to the Arcadia Lake Commission.** The current liaison, Jerel Cowan, has an ongoing schedule conflict and cannot make the meetings. Rick Smith volunteered, and Sandra Naifeh nominated him to serve as the liaison; Gena Money seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**

AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Sandra Naifeh, Rick Smith, Gena Money, Chris Anderson, Anthony Rose, and Laura Robertson

NAYS: None

- 6) **Updates and Discussion of Parks & Recreation Activity Reports and Projects, including:**
- **A.C. Caplinger** – Sports lighting is about to go up. Estimate January 2026 completion. Everything is under contract. Twelve thousand cubic feet of landfill material has been removed, and probably another 2,000 cubic feet more to go, then replacement soil will need to be brought in.
 - **Pelican Bay** – Should be out to bid any day.

- **Mitch Park Master Plan** – The agreement is under review by the legal dept.
- **E.C. Hafer Park Projects** – Design agreement for the pond deck renovation is under review by the legal dept.
- **KickingBird Pickleball** – Moving along, but wind and weather are slowing progress.
- **Festival Market Place** – The farmers market is going great. The developer asked to withdraw the brewery project. Saundra mentioned an art piece with a swing or bench that DEBA would like to install at the gravel area. Council might like to have a master plan developed. The parks department has been making some temporary improvements, and the farmers market is using the area for food trucks and games.
- **Edmond Trail Projects** – The eminent domain process was initiated by Council on April 14 for the sewer project. The Creek Bend trail is installed on or adjacent to the sewer line, so we are a step closer to possibly connecting the two ends of this trail.
- **Conservancy Projects** – Saundra mentioned the “giveback” nights on Tuesdays at various restaurants to help raise funds towards Uncommon Ground. You can find the list with dates on their Instagram page (uncommongroundok). Be sure to mention “Uncommon Ground” when ordering, and a percentage of your bill will be donated to the fund.
- **Liaison Reports** – No update.
- **Board Strategic Planning** – No update.
- **Other updates:**
 - Lake levels are coming down from the recent flooding, and everything should be ready for Memorial Day weekend.
 - Taylor asked for updates on the Eagle Scout project to install an ADA fishing dock. No update was available, but this will be added to future agendas.

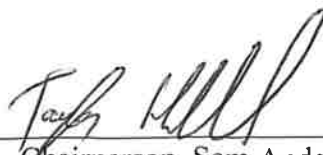
7) **Citizen Comments.** None.

8) **Comments from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair and Members.** Saundra brought in an international publication containing a nice four-page article about Edmond’s art. She also commended the park maintenance crew about how nice the Murrah memorial looked during last month’s ceremony.

9) **Adjournment.** Rick Smith motioned for adjournment of the meeting at 5:09 p.m.; Saundra Naifeh seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**

AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Saundra Naifeh, Rick Smith, Gena Money, Chris Anderson, Anthony Rose, and Laura Robertson

NAYS: None



 Chairperson, Sam Anderson
 or Vice Chairman, Taylor Hildenbrand