

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

August 21, 2025

- 1) **Meeting called to order** by Taylor Hildenbrand at 4:03 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 August 18, 2025, at 12:26 p.m. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members present: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Saundra Naifeh, Laura Robertson, Earl London, Rick Smith, Chris Anderson, and Anthony Rose. Visit Edmond staff present: Mackenzie McDonald. Parks and Recreation staff present: Brad Raney, Frank Hale, Zach Paty, Amanda Thomas, Emily Harmon, Blaze Van Osdol, and Cheryl Tettleton.
Absent: Gena Money & Jerel Cowan
- 2) **Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 17, 2025.** Rick Smith motioned to approve the minutes; Saundra Naifeh seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**
AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Saundra Naifeh, Laura Robertson, Earl London, Rick Smith, Chris Anderson, and Anthony Rose
NAYS: None
- 3) **Discussion and Consideration of a Project Understanding Regarding Demolition of the Stage at E.C. Hafer Park and Replacing it With a Passive Lounge Area.** Presented by Zach Paty. The stage at Hafer has aged and needs extensive repair or replacement. There are better stages available at Stephenson and Mitch Parks and another one will be available when the Uncommon Ground opens. The space at Hafer could be repurposed. The renovation of AC Caplinger displaced twelve horseshoe pits, which were used for leisure and tournament play. Repurposing the stage area could allow six horseshoe pits to be installed in addition to accommodating patio/yard type games such as corn hole or a Gaga ball pit. Picnic tables could be added, and the whole area provided with a crushed granite base, ornamental planting, and lighting. The project would also improve ADA usability. The goal is to keep the project under \$50,000, although some additional funds may be used to purchase the games. Freese and Nichols would provide design services for about \$14,900 and Midwest Wrecking would provide demolition services for about \$5,100. Gary Bartley motioned to support the project as presented; Earl London seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**
AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Saundra Naifeh, Laura Robertson, Earl London, Rick Smith, Chris Anderson, and Anthony Rose
NAYS: None
- 4) **Presentation and Discussion of Survey Results Regarding Chitwood Park and Barnett Field.** Presented by Frank Hale. The city is planning to do a drainage study which could ultimately result in portions of these parks being dug up to accommodate improvements such as an underground detention system. Additionally, the area around this park is changing. It seemed like a good time to look at potential changes to the park. To meet some of the neighbors and users of the park, a party in the park was held in July which attracted at least 250 people. In-person and online surveys were collected to determine priorities to help guide any future changes. The most appreciated current features at Chitwood Park were the trees and picnic shelter. For the future, trees and shade were the number one request, with a toddler playground coming in second. To increase park usage, addressing drainage and bathrooms were the top suggestions. For Barnett Field, the most important current features were the splash pad and bathrooms. Additional shade was the top request for future improvement. Input

from children at Ida Freeman Elementary will be collected as part of the process. The goal is to have some plans available when it's time for any drainage project planning. Improvements are not imminent, as there is currently no funding available, and it will take time for the stormwater department to apply for grants and complete the drainage study.

- 5) **Discussion and Consideration to Select a Representative to the Mitch Park Master Plan Committee.** Presented by Frank Hale. A representative is not required but would be welcome to participate in monthly meetings with staff and the design team (generally conducted virtually). Earl London volunteered, and Rick Smith nominated him to serve on the committee; Gary Bartley seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**

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

ABSTAIN: Earl London

NAYS: None

- 6) **Presentation and Discussion of the Parks Department Marketing Plan for FY26.** Presented by Emily Harmon. Emily started by introducing Blaze Van Osdol who assists with marketing and running the farmers market. As a citizens first organization, it's important that we prioritize communication. Citizens want more out of us in the way of upgrades, renovations, and innovations, but it is challenging to meet those requests when sales tax funding is down. Helping the community to feel a sense of ownership of the parks can motivate them to support efforts to create additional funding. One way to do this is to engage people in the decision-making process through open-ended conversation in person and via social media. Emily shared the mission and vision statements she crafted for the Parks department and listed a top priority for each of the divisions. One of those priorities was a rebranding and logo update for the Senior Center, along with an update to their vision and mission statements. Social media analytics will continue to be used to make sure the content offered is effective. Brad said there are a lot of positive things going on in the city, and Parks has an opportunity to be the leader in showcasing these things.

- 7) **Updates and Discussion of Parks & Recreation Activity Reports and Projects, including:**
- **Parks for Pollinators BioBlitz** – Presented by Amanda Thomas, recreation program coordinator. A virtual bioblitz will be held in Mitch Park throughout the month of September. There will be in-person events for various ages and interests, but people can also participate independently. All data is collected through the iNaturalist app. Be sure to select our project within the app. This is citizen science to help catalog wildlife within a defined area and a set period of time. The program is in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). We have formed partnerships with UCO, OU, and the Young Naturalists Club to provide the programming.
 - **A.C. Caplinger** – Sports lighting should be done by the end of the week. Backstop walls for fields 1-7 are in. Retaining walls are starting to go in, and fields and dugouts are all in process. Fields will be completed in groups, with fields 1-4 expected to be completed by the end of the year. Grass will be installed next spring.
 - **Pelican Bay** – Notice to Proceed issued. Project to start on Sept. 2.
 - **Chitwood Park & Barnett Field** – See Item 4 above.
 - **Westborough Park** – Acceptance of the RFP is scheduled for the next Council meeting. The playground renovation should be complete by next spring.

- **Mitch Park Master Plan** – See Item 5 above.
- **Hafer Park Projects** – See Item 3 above.
- **Lamb Nature Preserve** – At 60% plans, with trail the alignment. Edmond Land Conservancy (ELC) meets at 6PM today. Next big step will be for Geotech drilling where the bridge is due to be built. The grant application is currently waiting for governor approval prior to submitting to the federal government. The grant is managed through the state tourism department.
- **KickingBird Pickleball** – Structural repairs are complete. If the inspection is good, then the roof membrane will be ordered, with expected delivery in about 8 weeks.
- **Edmond Trail Projects** – The northwest connector (Midwest Blvd. to Spring Creek Trail) which bid through ODOT has closed. Should be completed within a year.
- **Liaison Reports** – Taylor reported on KickingBird Golf. He provided a factoid that the golf course uses 300K gallons of well water per night. The restaurant generates about \$200K per month, with the golf course receiving a share of the revenue in addition to monthly rent. KickingBird is running at about a 10% profit margin. Brad added that those profits go back into things like improving the facility's water wells. They have raised fees for youth and schools and have required high schools to cut their team sizes to help reduce traffic on the course.

Chris Anderson left the meeting at 5:17p.m.

- Rick reported that he (and Cheryl) had taken a tour of Arcadia Lake with Nicole Offutt, the lake manager. He appreciated how informative the tour was.

- Saundra said the Park Conservancy Board did not meet. She reported that the Uncommon Ground project is still moving along and reminded everyone about the give back nights at area businesses and mentioned other small public engagement and fundraising activities such as a branded beer at Frenzy and bracelets to be sold at Heard on Hurd.

- **Board Strategic Planning** – No update.

8) Citizen Comments. Faithanna Olsson, the new reporter from NonDoc, was recognized.

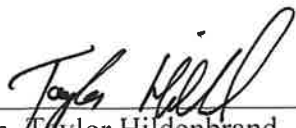
- Taylor Wilson frequents many of the boards and commission meetings and was very complimentary about the parks board and expressed how important the parks are to our community. He also was pleased to hear about the efforts Parks makes towards engaging with the public.

9) Comments from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair and Members. None.

10) Adjournment. Saundra Naifeh motioned for adjournment of the meeting at 5:23 p.m.; Laura Robertson seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**

AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Saundra Naifeh, Laura Robertson, Earl London, Rick Smith, and Anthony Rose

NAYS: None



 Chairman, Taylor Hildenbrand
 or Vice Chairman, Gary Bartley