

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
September 18, 2025

- 1) **Meeting called to order** by Taylor Hildenbrand at 4:05 p.m. at the MAC, Parks and Recreation Administration, 2733 Marilyn Williams Drive, Edmond, Oklahoma. The agenda for this meeting was posted in City Hall on September 15, 2025, at 12:48 p.m. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members present: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Earl London, Rick Smith, Chris Anderson, Anthony Rose, and Gena Money (in later). City Council members present: Barry Moore. City staff present: Andy Conyers and Leigh Martin. Parks and Recreation staff present: Brad Raney, Frank Hale, Zach Paty, LeAnna Holman, Emily Harmon, and Cheryl Tettleton.
Absent: Sandra Naifeh, Jerel Cowan, and Laura Robertson
- 2) **Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2025.** Gary Bartley motioned to approve the minutes; Earl London seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**
AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Earl London, Rick Smith, Chris Anderson, and Anthony Rose
NAYS: None
- 3) **Presentation and Discussion of the Park Tree Maintenance Program and Implementation of the Tree Inventory Project.** Presented by Leigh Martin, Urban Forester. The Urban Forestry and Parks departments collaborated on the inventory. Davey Resource Group was hired to evaluate trees in the developed areas of parks at a cost of \$55,000, with \$10,000 of the funding coming from a grant. (Gena Money joined the meeting at 4:08 p.m.) They evaluated 5,500 trees on 30 city properties. Mapping of the trees was incorporated into GIS and allows them to sort by maintenance priority, species, size, etc. The maintenance strategy extends over several years and is available on Urban Forestry's website. They received a \$1 million grant a couple of years ago which is helping to fund maintenance items which fall within the Edmond ReLeaf project area. Items labeled Priority 1 are primarily to mitigate risk in high use areas. Priorities are adjusted if needed. To date, 187 trees have been pruned and 62 trees removed. The inspections also resulted in identifying locations which would be good for planting additional trees. Zach added that the inventory has helped them to be proactive rather than reactive. Trees in natural areas, including the Lamb Preserve, are managed by park staff and were not included in this inventory. There is a separate inventory as part of the Lamb Preserve project.
- 4) **Discussion of the Renewal of the 2017 CIP Sales Tax That Will Be on the November 18, 2025, Ballot and How it May Relate to the Parks Budget.** Presented by Andy Conyers, Assistant City Manager/Administration. He serves as the staff liaison for the CIP Advisory Board. CIP is our version of Oklahoma city's MAPS tax. We have two of these, one permanent and one temporary. The November ballot will have two questions pertaining to continuation of the temporary tax. One question is for 1 cent which goes to help fund day-to-day operations, with 2/3 of funds dedicated to police and fire. This portion was first approved by voters in 1977 and has been renewed by voters every time since then. The other item is for ½ cent which will be dedicated to road improvements. This portion was originally approved in 2011 to build the city's safety center. It was renewed five years later as a 10-year tax to fund construction/improvement items such as the tennis center, animal shelter, new library, golf course, trail expansion, and park improvements. Passage of these tax renewals will keep our tax rate the same, with our rate continuing to be the lowest in the metro area. The Parks tax is

a separate, permanent tax which generates \$3 million/year, with about \$2 million needed for general operations. The 2000 CIP tax is the permanent tax which can be used for quality-of-life projects. City Council recognizes that the current tax renewal request is not enough to fund all the needs/wants, but it is crucial for maintaining daily operations. It currently generates about \$36 million/year. A consultant has evaluated pavement conditions. To maintain the roads, the city would need to double the amount they currently spend. Dedicating the 1/2 cent tax to roads would provide approximately \$12 million/year (or \$120 million over the 10 years). In addition to pavement improvements, intersections would be upgraded. The intersection currently under construction at Danforth and Kelly is a \$9 million project, with the city paying about \$3 million and the balance coming from federal funds. Rick contacted Councilman Moore when he learned about the tax being dedicated to solely to roads. Rick thanked him for listening to his concerns and taking them forward to city management. In turn, Councilman Moore complimented interim city manager Randy Entz and staff on the quick response to Rick. He also complimented Brad Raney and parks staff on doing a good job.

- 5) **Update and Discussion of the City of Edmond Resiliency Action Plan.** Presenter was ill and unable to attend. This item will be continued until next month.
- 6) **Discussion and Consideration of Approval of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee 2026 Regular Schedule of Meetings.** Presented by Cheryl Tettleton. Meetings are scheduled to continue taking place in the MAC Conference Room at Mitch Park on the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m. The Board was offered the opportunity to move meetings to Council Chambers at City Hall and to schedule the March meeting for a different date to avoid a conflict with school spring break. Gary Bartley motioned to approve the presented schedule at Mitch Park with the change of the March meeting to the fourth Thursday; Gena Money seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**
AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Earl London, Rick Smith, Chris Anderson, Anthony Rose, and Gena Money
NAYS: None
- 7) **Updates and Discussion of Parks & Recreation Activity Reports and Projects, including:** Presented by Brad Raney. He started by thanking the board for their service.
 - **A.C. Caplinger** – Backstops are in, lights are up, and the final trash removal/soil import item will go to Council soon. Brad has regular meetings at Caplinger and offered to tour board members. Please contact him if interested. These would be done individually to avoid quorum.
 - **Pelican Bay** – Lots of activity going on. The project kicked off on the day we wanted.
 - **Chitwood Park & Barnett Field** – Next step will be elementary school feedback (Ida Freeman).
 - **Westborough Park** – PO is being generated, and picking playground equipment colors is in process.
 - **Mitch Park Master Plan** – A survey is going out and public engagement at events is beginning.
 - **Hafer Park Projects** – No update.
 - **Lamb Nature Preserve** – Design plans are at 65%. Working on studies related to installation of bridge supports.

- **KickingBird Pickleball** – Structural repairs are substantially complete, with some punch list items. The repair was surprisingly complex. Outer membrane will be ordered upon completion of structural repairs.
- **Edmond Trail Projects** – A preconstruction meeting is the next step for the northwest connector (Midwest Blvd. to Spring Creek Trail) which bid through ODOT.
- **Liaison Reports** – Arcadia Lake Commission and Parks Conservancy did not meet. Taylor reported that KickingBird Golf discussed using reserve funds for some projects and using profits to fund extra needs. They will have an item at the next Council meeting.
- **Board Strategic Planning** – No update.

8) **Citizen Comments.** Taylor Wilson encouraged everyone to vote for passage of the tax renewal. He said failure would result in losing 50 police and 35 fire staff. The board asked Emily Young about the farmers' market. She said September is going well, and the market is at about \$1 million in sales so far for this year's outdoor season. The excess rain has been challenging for produce. She mentioned that the market is starting to sell merchandise, like farmers market branded t-shirts.

Anothony Rose left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

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

10) **Adjournment.** Rick Smith motioned for adjournment of the meeting at 5:16 p.m.; Gena Money seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**

AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Earl London, Rick Smith, Chris Anderson, and Gena Money

NAYS: None



 Chairman, Taylor Hildenbrand
 or Vice Chairman, Gary Bartley