

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

January 15, 2026

- 1) **Meeting called to order** by Taylor Hildenbrand at 4:01 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 January 12, 2026, at 11:31 a.m. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members present: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Earl London, Rick Smith (in later), Anthony Rose, Chris Anderson, Laura Robertson, and Ashley Bradley. City staff present: Sean Wallace, Jane Robertson, and Ava Zrenda. Parks and Recreation staff present: Brad Raney, Frank Hale, Zach Paty, LeAnna Holman, and Cheryl Tettleton.
Absent: Saundra Naifeh, Jerel Cowan, and Gena Money

- 2) **Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 18, 2025.** Chris Anderson motioned to approve the minutes; Laura Robertson seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**

AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand Gary Bartley, Earl London, Anthony Rose, Chris Anderson, Laura Robertson, and Ashley Bradley

NAYS: None

Agenda order was adjusted to allow presentation of Item 5 (school bond) first due to the presenter's need to leave early. Minutes are listed in the order of the published agenda.
Rick Smith in at 4:03.

- 3) **Presentation and Consideration to Support the Design for Renovation of the Pond Deck and Pavilion at Hafer Park.** Presented by Brad Raney and Frank Hale. The previous concept developed a few years ago in conjunction with the bathroom remodel was too costly. The new design for full renovation changed some materials and simplified the design, for an updated, lower cost of around \$500K. Just to paint and update the existing structure is around \$300K. When originally designed, funds were approved in the CIP budget. Those funds have since been reallocated. We would like to apply for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant to help pay for the project, possibly packaging a playground replacement into the request. Applications are due in March. It would take about 1 ½ to 2 years to receive funds from this application. The remodel footprint is the same as the current structure, and the existing pier system is considered good. Not expected to drain pond. Pond aerator is new and electrical panel has recently been replaced. Staff recommend full renovation. Gary Bartly motioned to move forward with development of full renovation design; Ashley Bradley seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**

AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Earl London, Rick Smith, Anthony Rose, Chris Anderson, Laura Robertson, and Ashley Bradley

NAYS: None

- 4) **Presentation and Consideration to Support a Project for a Veterans Flag Retirement Fire Pit and Plaza to be Located in the Southwest Section of Stephenson Park.** Presented by Ava Zrenda and Jane Robertson. There was previously a push to develop a large veterans' memorial at Bickham-Rudkin Park. The Veterans Memorial Advisory Committee (VMAC) raised around \$20K, which is not enough for the envisioned project. Smaller memorials currently exist all around the city. The VFW and American Legion have expressed a need for a place to retire flags. They currently hold flag retirements at the Oak Cliff Fire Station. The funds raised by VMAC will be used to create a memorial plaza with a flag retirement fire pit

near the American Legion building at Stephenson Park. Ava created the design to complement materials existing in the newly renovated park. Construction of a fire pit with a seating wall is the priority, with decorative lighting and plant materials included as funds allow. The fire pit will have a locking cover to prevent unintended use. The goal is to keep costs within the funds already raised; although the VFW and American Legion have indicated they could possibly raise a small amount of additional funds. The flag poles will be relocated from the Centennial Plaza area of the park, but the statue located there is not planned for relocation. Taylor suggested signage should be placed there to indicate the reverential nature of the site. The Edmond History Museum would likely provide the information needed for monument signage. Rick Smith motioned to support the project; Chris Anderson seconded the motion.

Motion carried as follows:

AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Earl London, Rick Smith, Anthony Rose, Chris Anderson, Laura Robertson, and Ashley Bradley

NAYS: None

5) Presentation and Discussion of the Upcoming Edmond Public Schools Bond Election.

Presented by Anthony Rose. The election will be held on February 10, 2026. A bond vote is held every two years and is designed to avoid raising the existing tax rate. See [Bond Issues | Edmond Public Schools](#) for more information. Phase 1 of Post Oak Elementary (20th elementary school - opens Fall 2026) and Horizon Middle School (7th middle school - opens 2028) are currently under construction. These schools are located at Air Depot and Covell to support growth east of I-35. Phase 2 of these projects will be covered by the new bond. The new Santa Fe H.S. Freshman Academy is also currently under construction. The new bond would cover items needed for completion. The bond is divided into two propositions. Proposition 1 (\$136,350,000) covers updates, improvements, and instructional materials for every school site. Proposition 2 (\$3,650,000) covers the purchase of new buses and SUVs. Brad noted that Proposition 1 includes two items that impact park facilities: improvements at Edmond Center Court (court resurfacing) and the Mitch Park YMCA competition pool.

6) Discussion and Consideration to Support Recommended Trail Names for City Multi-use and Bicycle Trails.

Presented by Sean Wallace. Jan Fees attended last month's meeting to address an oversight regarding parks board representation. Additional committee meetings have been held which included Sandra and Earl. The immediate goal is to get a trail map published which includes the updated trail names. It was agreed that the Crosstown Trail should be excluded because sections are located on city streets. Portions of that trail will appear on the map as the Boulevard Sidepath (extra-wide sidewalks) and the Fink Park Trail. Dropping the word "neighborhood" from the Coffee Creek Trail was also recommended. The map won't include the KickingBird Trail as it is not yet ready. The current Rt. 66 Trail will be renamed as part of the Arcadia Lake Trail, with the Rt. 66 trail name to be used later for the Post Rd. to Westminster Rd. (Pops) segment. Earl London motioned to support the updated trail names as presented; Ashley Bradley seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**

AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Earl London, Rick Smith, Anthony Rose, Chris Anderson, Laura Robertson, and Ashley Bradley

NAYS: None

Anthony Rose left the meeting at 4:45 p.m.

7) Updates and Discussion of Parks & Recreation Activity Reports and Projects, including:

Presented by Brad Raney and Frank Hale.

- **A.C. Caplinger** – The large gravel pile onsite will be used to provide drainage under the artificial turf. Synthetic turf should be delivered this week. Fence posts will be going up soon. Still planning for a spring opening (May 1?). The entire complex will open at once rather than in phases, as it would be difficult to secure unopened sections from public access. The board expressed a desire to see drone footage of the site.
- **Pelican Bay** – Another change order will be on the next Council agenda. This is primarily for electrical work. Unknown (and against code), the previous electrical was located within the pool deck and was destroyed when the pool deck was removed. The pool contractor has been very thorough, which will improve the quality of the renovation.
- **Chitwood Park and Barnett Field** – No update.
- **Mitch Park Master Plan** – The proposed design should be ready for presentation at this board in February or March, and a Council workshop is scheduled for March.
- **Hafer Park Projects** – See Item 3 above.
- **Lamb Nature Preserve** – The path for the geotech truck is ready. Tree replacement/remediation is in the works. The cultural survey is complete and stated there was “nothing of note” on the property.
- **KickingBird Pickleball** – The structural repairs are complete and awaiting inspection. The roof membrane is being manufactured, with delivery expected this spring.
- **Westborough Park** – Playground equipment will be installed in the next couple of months. Thomas Trail runs through this park. John Ross Elementary is located adjacent to the park.
- **Edmond Trail Projects** – Construction of the Northwest Connector begins Monday, with most of the cost covered by an ODOT grant. Design of multiple other trail segments is ongoing.
- **Staff & Park Highlights** – Taylor has requested for highlights to be provided each month.
 - Frank Hale was originally brought on to manage projects and design. He additionally now oversees other park divisions (recreation, senior center, and farmers market). He enjoys the occasional opportunity to grill burgers and brats for senior center lunches – and regularly grills at home for his dogs!
 - The Pop-Up Nature centers held at various park locations have been a popular new program for the recreation department.
- **Liaison Reports** –
 - Ashley said Golf will meet next week, so no new update. Negotiations with The Lookout are going well.
 - Rick said the Lake reported a successful deer hunt and that they are nearly ready to start replacing restrooms in the parks.
- **Board Strategic Planning** – No update.
- **Other updates** -
 - Leanna Holman reported that Red Coyote holds a big race every month. Their St. Patrick’s race is moving from OKC to the Spring Creek Trail this year. This trail is becoming a popular location to hold 5K races, with five or six held here last year. It is a safer course than the one at Mitch Park, as the Mitch course crosses park entrances and conflicts with traffic entering and leaving the park.
 - Taylor says he will request at future meetings for board members to share compliments and complaints they have heard about the parks.

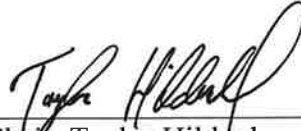
8) **Citizen Comments.** None.

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

10) **Adjournment.** Earl London motioned for adjournment of the meeting at 5:04 p.m.; Gary Bartley seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**

AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand Gary Bartley, Earl London, Rick Smith, Chris Anderson, Laura Robertson, and Ashley Bradley

NAYS: None

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Taylor Hildenbrand", is written over a horizontal line.

Chair, Taylor Hildenbrand
or Vice Chair, Gary Bartley