

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
February 19, 2026

- 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 February 12, 2026, at 2:27 p.m. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members present: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Saundra Naifeh, Earl London, Rick Smith, Anthony Rose, Gena Money (in later), and Ashley Bradley. Visit Edmond staff present: Jennifer Thornton. Parks and Recreation staff present: Brad Raney, Frank Hale, Zach Paty, Blaze VanOsdol, and Cheryl Tettleton.
Absent: Jerel Cowan, Laura Robertson, and Chris Anderson
- 2) **Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 15, 2026.** Rick Smith motioned to approve the minutes; Saundra Naifeh seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**
AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Saundra Naifeh, Earl London, Rick Smith, Anthony Rose, and Ashley Bradley
NAYS: None
- 3) **Presentation and Consideration for Support of a Beach Sprint Rowing Event at Arcadia Lake.** Presented by Jennifer Thornton. Mike Knopp of Riversport OKC approached Edmond about the possibility of holding this event at Arcadia Lake. (Gena Money in at 4:08 p.m.) The sport is run-row-run. It has experienced rapid growth in participation and will be a new sport at the 2028 Olympics. The hope is to position Arcadia Lake as an ongoing central U.S. hub for the sport. The competitions have a festival-type atmosphere, with live music, beach games, vendors and food trucks. The sport is viewer and participant friendly. This inaugural U.S. festival could tie in to celebrations for the Rt 66 centennial and America 250. The Visit Edmond board has committed to contributing \$100,000 toward the cost of hosting this event (\$50K from FY26 funds and \$50K from FY27 funds). Edmond would provide volunteers to work the event, with the UCO boathouse serving as the host for sport-related camps. USRowing would facilitate the event and manage the budget (including the funds contributed by Visit Edmond). The event is planned for August 29 & 30 at Edmond Park, which would be unavailable during this time for regular public use; however, the rest of the lake's parks would still be available. In response to board questions: There is a lot of available parking, but shuttles would also be made available. Eight boats are needed to run the event. There will be a lot of sponsorship opportunities. USRowing would carry the insurance, adding the city for this event. The Corps would have to approve the food trucks. An advisory board/working committee will form starting in April. This item will be taken to Council in March. Gary Bartley motioned to support the event; Saundra Naifeh seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**
AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Saundra Naifeh, Earl London, Rick Smith, Anthony Rose, Gena Money, and Ashley Bradley
NAYS: None
- 4) **Presentation and Discussion of the Mitch Park Master Plan.** Presented by Frank Hale. The presented plan is a draft, not final. The draft plan will also be presented to Council on March 23. Feedback from this board, Council, and other stakeholders will shape the final plan. Some key things to note include a realignment of the 5K trail, addition of dog parks, pickleball, a splash pad, a turf rectangular field with multiple flex fields, and additional parking behind the YMCA and near the turf & practice fields. Rerouting the 5K would increase safety by not

going across the main entry to the park, would provide a better start/stop area with room for vendors, and would help to activate the amphitheater area. The existing trail would not be removed. The farmers market shown behind the MAC is not intended to replace the downtown market, but to better accommodate outdoor markets held in Mitch Park. It would still operate with popup tents, not permanent structures. Some disk golf changes have been made recently, with new tee pads, secondary baskets (to make the existing course 36 baskets), and general course improvements. The plan only includes one turf field. Previous studies about turf fields indicated there was a need/want for them, but Mitch Park isn't the place to put them. The practice fields would be marked but not developed. A splash pad, restroom, and fenced tot lot playground would be located near the fields. Multiple board members preferred not to include the dog parks and didn't like their proximity to the trails. The idea of locating the dog parks near the skate park was to bring more people to this area, which could help to reduce vandalism and other issues. A couple of board members advocated including a tennis court(s) in the plan. The plan includes two look-out towers, two additional pavilions, and some educational stations along the trails. The Miracle League would still have a ballfield. The AMBUCS are currently working to design and fund an upgraded ADA playground replacement. Rather than relocating the park maintenance yard, better screening is indicated.

Saundra requested that additional picnic tables be added throughout the park.

5) **Updates and Discussion of Parks & Recreation Activity Reports and Projects, including:**
Presented by Brad Raney and Frank Hale.

- **Staff & Park Highlights** – Blaze VanOsdol was recognized for her role with the Parks department, starting as the front desk attendant and now serving as the assistant for the parks marketing team and weekly Farmers Market. Her work organizing and sourcing bands for the summer Concerts in the Park series was highlighted. Zach Paty highlighted Ted Anderson Park. He provided some history and information about Ted Anderson's accomplishments – and we learned that Ted Anderson had been the principal when Earl was a student!
- **A.C. Caplinger** – Projected to open in May. Turf is beginning to be rolled out.
- **Pelican Bay** – The Myrtha pool liner is being installed. More leaks were discovered in the main drain system, which may delay pool opening until mid-June. The contractor is doing a good job, with everyone putting in long days/weeks to help keep the project on schedule.
- **Hafer Park Projects** – No update.
- **Lamb Nature Preserve** – Still waiting on the environmental study needed for the grant. The geotechnical survey is needed before design can be completed. Mitigation of some invasive plants is already in process.
- **KickingBird Pickleball** – Waiting on manufacture and delivery of the fabric membrane. The structural repairs are complete.
- **Westborough Park** – New playground equipment has been delivered and will be installed over the next few weeks. The existing excavator toy will be moved to Clegern Park. The spring-mounted toys will be saved for now but are not expected to be repurposed, as they are well past their usefulness.
- **Joint Use Library & YMCA** – This project was managed by Andy Conyers but has been reassigned to Brad, so it has been added to the update list. It is expected to open in October 2026. The library portion is further along. The second floor of the Y was poured this week.

- **Edmond Trail Projects** – Clearing has started for the northwest connector (Midwest Blvd to Spring Creek Trail). City Council executive session scheduled to discuss Creek Bend property.
- **Strategic Plan** – No update.
- **Superlative Asset Valuation** – The draft plan is due at the end of this month.
- **Liaison Reports** –
 - Arcadia Lake Comm. didn't meet.
 - Golf - Ashley reported that the board reviewed methods planned for use to prevent damage to the course from freezing temperatures. They also reviewed the draft (FY27) budget. They discussed a couple of the planned projects. They also voted to raise the fees for range balls. It would be \$2-3 based on the quantity. The course is being "loved to death" and this is one way to decrease usage.
 - Park Conservancy/Uncommon Ground – Fundraising appears to be on target. They are regularly touring big donors.

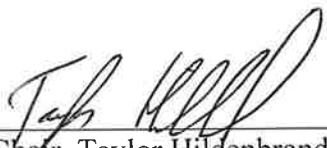
6) **Citizen Comments.** None.

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

8) **Adjournment.** Gary Bartley motioned for adjournment of the meeting at 5:49 p.m.; Gena Money seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**

AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Sandra Naifeh, Earl London, Rick Smith, Anthony Rose, Gena Money, and Ashley Bradley

NAYS: None



 Chair, Taylor Hildenbrand
 or Vice Chair, Gary Bartley