

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

June 18, 2026

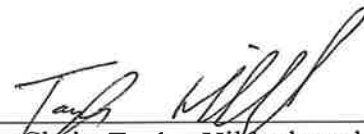
- 1) **Meeting called to order** by Taylor Hildenbrand at 4:01 p.m. at the MAC, Parks and Recreation Administration, 2733 Marilyn Williams Drive, Edmond, Oklahoma. The agenda for this meeting was posted in City Hall on June 15, 2026, at 2:46 p.m. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board members present: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Saundra Naifeh, Earl London, Rick Smith, Ashley Bradley, Gena Money (in later), Laura Robertson, and Nick Nicoll. Parks and Recreation staff present: Frank Hale, Zach Paty, and Cheryl Tettleton.
Absent: Chris Anderson and Anthony Rose
- 2) **Consideration of Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 21, 2026.** Earl London motioned to approve the minutes; Gary Bartley seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**
AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Saundra Naifeh, Earl London, Rick Smith, Ashley Bradley, Laura Robertson, and Nick Nicoll
NAYS: None
- 3) **Presentation and Discussion of the Edmond Youth Sports Association (EYSA) Amended and Restated Sports Partnership Agreement.** Presented by Frank Hale and Zach Paty. The new agreement is essentially the same as the previous one, but it incorporates additional fees payable to the city. The base lease payment remains \$2,500 per year. Additionally, \$2.50 per player for regular league play and \$20 per team for participation in each baseball and softball tournament will be collected to help pay for maintenance and replacement of the field turf. At the end of each season, EYSA will provide a report containing player and tournament team numbers which will then be used to invoice them in July and December each year to collect the funds. The operator helped to determine the fee amounts. (Gena Money in at 4:05 p.m.) The collected funds will be set aside for use when the turf fields need maintenance and/or replacement. In response to board questions, there is no admission fee to watch regular league play, but admission is charged for tournaments. EYSA is a non-profit. They provide the city with a copy of their annual tax return. Zach said this sports partner is responsive and easy to work with. EYSA has invested a lot in the Mitch Park ballfields and has managed to increase participation by about 350 kids - even while AC Caplinger has been closed for renovation. The city has an agreement which allows Cheyenne Middle School to use two baseball and two softball fields at Mitch Park in return for use of Cheyenne's rectangular fields for lacrosse.
- 4) **Updates and Discussion of Parks & Recreation Activity Reports and Projects, including:**
Presented by Frank Hale and Zach Paty.
 - **A.C. Caplinger** – A lot of cement work occurring, netting going up, parking lot work and landscaping occurring. Turf is installed on fields 8, 9, and 10. The grand entry is done. ADA switchback is going in. Sod and trees are in. Missed being able to open for summer leagues but will be able to have tournaments later this summer. The complex will be ready for fall league play.
 - **Pelican Bay** – Very close to completion. Have completed city inspections and received occupancy permits. Other required inspections expected to be complete before the end of the month – dry inspection Monday 6/22 then start filling pool, health inspection Wednesday 6/24, then wet inspection Thursday 6/25. earlys expected in

early- to mid-July. Season passes will be discounted, refunded, or pro-rated once the official opening day is determined.

- **Mitch Park Master Plan** – The mayor and council rejected the plan, thinking the parking situation around the ballfields was not fully considered. Frank is working to create a report for the city manager to show that parking was evaluated and public input helped to set priorities, with parking improvements not making their top ten. Parking is expected to be a temporary problem which will improve once AC Caplinger opens. The sports operator (EYSA) also provided input for the plan's development. The master plan is complete, but we will work to resolve the Council's concerns.
- **Hafer Park Projects** – The passive lounge space is under design. Aesthetic concerns expressed by park users and board members will influence the design and materials used in the various projects. The board will have a chance to review before designs are finalized. A "Funded by TSET" sign will be installed soon. Zach informed the group that several trees in Hafer will need to be removed soon due to disease, including seven persimmon trees with persimmon blight and about six large elm trees with Dutch elm disease.
- **Lamb Nature Preserve** – Have completed boring for bridge. Still waiting on grant funding and final design plans. The trail is minimal, with construction expected to begin in early fall and possibly completed by the end of this year.
- **KickingBird Pickleball** – The outer membrane has not yet shipped. It was supposed to arrive in early July but now looking like mid-August. Persevering with reconstruction at this location is primarily due to funds coming from insurance reimbursement.
- **Joint Use Library & YMCA** – An amended agreement will go to Council and the CIP committee next month to allocate funds already set aside. A fall opening is still expected. Remediation for watershed is complete. The new pool contractor has made up all the time lost from the previous contractor.
- **Trail Projects** – No update.
- **Arcadia Lake Safety Improvements & Master Plan Projects**– Frank, Nicole Offutt (lake manager), Jennifer Thornton (Visit Edmond), and JD Younger (police chief) having been meeting to discuss. Looking at short-term, low-impact changes to bigger, long-term improvements. Considering electronic gates for all entrance locations. Looking at cameras and the systems behind them to provide alerts. The gates are included in the lake master plan.
- **Staff & Park Highlights** – None.
- **Liaison Reports** –
 - Arcadia Lake – The commission didn't meet. Nick toured the lake with Nicole (lake manager). He suggested the potential at the lake is huge.
 - KickingBird Golf – Ashley said they are considering whether to upgrade the range system.
 - Park Conservancy – Sandra said the Uncommon Ground has planted 500 trees so far and will be planting an additional 1,000. Official opening is planned for November 5, 2027. The Blue Dog statue is on loan for seven years.
- **Other updates**
 - Frank is working with the assistant city manager to determine gaps in park staffing which need to be filled, including finding a new director.

- Sandra said the Historical Preservation Society will be installing a plaque at Fink Park.

- 5) **Citizen Comments.** Mike Sharrer, Edmond resident since 2000, commended the Parks and Forestry departments for their park tree inventory and tree maintenance. He is a retired urban forester from Minneapolis/St. Paul. He also commented on the detention area park off Hurd. He suggested the park be named and that the city consider adding an additional entrance from Fretz. He said there is a lot of wildlife at this park, and he appreciated the pecan and fruit trees that were planted on the east end. An agenda item will be added next month to discuss naming the Hurd detention park. Sharon Gregory, a resident in Ward 3, commented about Hafer Park being a suburban oasis and advocated for keeping the pond pavilion and other improvements more natural looking, not futuristic and streamlined like the updates at Stephenson Park. If the stage at Hafer must be removed, she would like a replacement to be installed somewhere in the park.
- 6) **Comments from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair and Members.** Taylor noted that Gary was leaving the board after six years of service. Gary's contributions were recognized and appreciated by the entire board. Sandra complimented staff about the appearance of the landscape when driving north into downtown (Broadway and Second). Zach said they selected different colors and types of annuals this year. Both east and west side park maintenance teams worked on the beds instead of contracting the service. Earl noted the passing of Althina Swan Jones, who served the Parks department for 29 years before retiring.
- 7) **Adjournment.** Gary Bartley motioned for adjournment of the meeting at 5:31 p.m.; Sandra Naifeh seconded the motion. **Motion carried as follows:**
AYES: Taylor Hildenbrand, Gary Bartley, Sandra Naifeh, Earl London, Rick Smith, Ashley Bradley, Gena Money, Laura Robertson, and Nick Nicoll
NAYS: None



Chair, Taylor Hildenbrand
or Vice Chair _____