



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2025 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Leah J. Bonich, Thomas Sims, Ginny Enstad, Ellen Wolfson, Lisa Tinker Marsh, Anne Mooney

Absent

Lawrence Lyman

Staff Present

Parks and Recreation Director Jason Seeley, Assistant Directors Cathleen Daus and Mike McCosker, Recreation Coordinator Laura Halsey

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chairperson, Leah Bonich, at 5:30pm

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of June 18, 2025

Motion made by Ellen Wolfson, seconded by Thomas Sims, to approve the June 18, 2025, minutes.

Motion passes 6-0.

3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda): Three minutes allowed for each speaker

None present.

4. Action Items

- a. Fee Schedule

Staff provided board members with a copy of the proposed changes to the fee schedule in their packet for review.

Ms. Enstad feels that the cemetery is running out of room for casket burials, making the spaces more valuable. She suggested a fee increase.

Mrs. Daus stated that the Palm Cemetery has 85 cremation spaces left, while Pineywood has 610 columbarium spaces and 600 ground spaces available.

Motion made by Thomas Sims, seconded by Lisa Tinker Marsh, to increase cemetery fees by 20% across the board.

Per Mr. Seeley, list this as a 'consensus' item and make one all inclusive motion at the end.

The board recommended increasing the Saturday Farmer's Market vendor prices.

The consensus is to increase pricing for the Saturday market to match the Winter Garden Farmer's Market.

The board recommended implementing a 4-hour minimum rental for the stadium, except for practices. Let the record show that Thomas Sims was the only member that raised his hand in favor.

The tennis center currently has an estimated 92% recovery rate at this time.

Staff recommends not increasing the prices out of concern that members will opt to attend Orlando or other surrounding facilities that are more affordable.

Motion made by Thomas Sims, seconded by Anne Mooney, to approve the fee schedule as presented, along with the 20% across-the-board increase for the cemeteries and Farmer's Market vendors. Motion passes 6-0. A roll call vote was taken, with all board members voting in favor of the motion.

b. MLK Playground - joint discussion with CRAAB

Kyle Dudgeon, CRA Manager, gave a brief overview, along with a presentation to the board members. Jason Seeley, Parks & Recreation Director, provided additional input on several of the planned features to improve the playground. Jessica Griggs, Dix Hite, described the individual elements of the new playground plan and the roles each of them brings to the final product. Mr. Seeley opened the floor to discussion and board member questions. Ms. Griggs, was able to answer questions regarding the sensory installations and spaces throughout the structure. The board inquired about the dragon head entrance and the slide materials. Mr. Seeley pointed out that concrete slides remain significantly cooler than metal slides, are more durable, and lessen the chance of injury due to deterioration. City staff have taken into account the need for shade and are considering the installation of shade sails. The dragon was intended to maintain the castle theme throughout the playground structure, but it has since been removed based on public input, along with the crown and shutters.

Elisha Kennedy, Ovation Construction, stated that due to limitations in the rendering software they were unable to make the slides look exactly as they would as a finished product. The concrete slides will be polished and smooth. Concrete remains 5-10 degrees cooler than any other material. The board pointed out that the swings for different age groups were separated, which may cause issues for parents with children of different ages. They were informed that toddler swings would be incorporated into area 26 as well, therefore alleviating that concern.

The distance between the play structure and the splash pad along with blind spots in the structure were points of interest for the board. However, the spacing between the slats was widened slightly to allow a line of sight through the structure while still meeting safety requirements.

Mr. Dudgeon stated that the most important part of the public input process was to ensure the vision and concerns of the community were incorporated into the design and functionality of the finished structure. The accessibility of the playground was one of the most important topics for the Parks & Recreation staff to consider.

Motion made by Thomas Sims, seconded by Lisa Tinker Marsh, to approve the MLK Playground plan as presented. Motion passes 6-0.

5. Non-Action Items

No items to present.

6. Staff Updates

No updates were presented

7. Board Comments

Ms. Marsh informed city staff that the coyotes can be seen during the day around Lake Bell now.

Mrs. Bonich inquired about the gator in the pond at Via Tuscany/Howell Branch area. Mrs. Wolfson requested the relocation of the Saturday Farmer's Market back to the Farmer's Market building be put on the next agenda for discussion, and recommended that the original vendors receive first priority should it be passed.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Approved by the Board on September 17, 2025

/s/ Laura Halsey, Recreation Coordinator