



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2026 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, Lawrence Lyman (V)

Absent

Staff Present

Parks and Recreation Director Jason Seeley, Assistant Directors Cathleen Daus (V), Mike McCosker, Recreation Coordinator Laura Halsey, Recreation Manager John Clarke

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Leah Bonich, at 5:31 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approval of the February 18, 2026 minutes

Motion made by Thomas Sims, seconded by Lisa Tinker Marsh, to approve the February 18, 2026, minutes Motion passes 6-0.

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

Brittany Peters, 234 Twelve League Circle, Casselberry, FL 32707, spoke on the little library at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park.

The husband and wife would like to replace the little free library at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park in honor of her sister, who passed away last year.

The board inquired about installation, maintenance, and size/design parameters. Mr. Seeley stated that there is a standard size and staff can direct the couple on where to purchase a library or library kit. Mrs. Peters stated that they have no problem maintaining the library once it is installed.

Motion made by Thomas Sims, seconded by Ellen Wolfson, to approve the little library installation. Motion passes 6-0.

4. Action Items

a. Phelps Park Rules and Standards

Mr. Seeley provided the board with a list of the rules & regulations for Phelps Park, along with the park sign. He provided background information on Phelps Park, noting that only one resident has expressed concern about athletic play there. An aerial of the park was displayed to show where the green space is, and Mr. Seeley provided three options for the board to consider. The board unanimously selected Option A.

The board inquired about increased noise from athletic activity. Mr. Seeley stated that staff can plant trees along the park perimeter to help buffer noise from residences. The board also inquired about city liability should an injury occur, but liability waivers would be required, as required for other park activities and usage.

Motion made by Thomas Sims, seconded by Ellen Wolfson, to approve Phelps Park for non-league athletic play. Motion passes 6-0.

5. Non-Action Items

a. Parks and Recreation Department Events and Programming Overview

Mr. Seeley reviewed a programming matrix with the board. He also mentioned the numerous aquatic activities and classes that the city offers to the community. The Community Center is the hub of a majority of the programs — seniors classes, after-school program, drop-in basketball, fitness center, summer camp, etc. He then opened the floor for thoughts from the board.

Youth Athletic Leagues were a point of discussion, and the board suggested partnering with other organizations such as the Police Athletic League, to provide youth sports. It was agreed to keep the topic on the radar to discuss at a later date.

6. Staff Updates

a. PRMP Update

Mr. Seeley stated that just over 600 statistically valid surveys were received, and an additional 200 were received via the open survey link provided on social media. He reminded board members about the in-person community meetings.

b. Project Update_Q2 2026

Mr. Seeley provided the board with an update on current and completed projects. Completed projects include Mead Garden improvements, MLK Learning Garden, Art on the Green at Seven Oaks Park, and MLK Pickleball courts.

Current projects include the Ward Park Pavilion, Lake Baldwin Dog Park Pavilion with shade umbrellas, Howell Branch stormwater pond, and Harper St. parking lot project.

Mrs. Enstad inquired about the dog wash vendor that presented to the board earlier this year. Mrs. Bonich inquired about lighting the dog park area because it is very dark. Mr. Seeley stated he is unsure how the plumbing would withstand the dog wash idea, as Public Works is already called out to vacuum the water lines fairly regularly. As for lighting, he stated the tree line has been pruned to allow for more light and that solar lighting would be the ideal option for that area.

Recent events include Dinner on the Ave, which took place on Saturday, April 11th, and there is an upcoming car show on Park Ave.

A new Veteran's memorial ribbon cutting in Central Park will take place next week, and Run for the Trees takes place on May 9th.

7. Board Comments

Mrs. Bonich inquired how much longer the egret season will last, to which the staff responded about another month.

Mrs. Wolfson mentioned the parties that are taking place at Kraft Azalea that leave artificial flowers and trash behind in the park. She believes the activity is taking place outside regular reservation hours and without permits. It is creating a huge mess within the park. John Clarke, Recreation & Family Services Manager, stated the park rangers are on site as often as possible.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm

Approved by the Board on June 17, 2026

/s/ Laura Halsey, Recreation Coordinator