



PARKS AND TRAILS COMMISSION

Monday, November 10, 2025 at 4:00 PM

APPROVED MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Vice Chair Howard Blumenthal
Commissioner Jerry Belcher
Commissioner Lucas Green
Commissioner Scott Jacobson
Commissioner Lynne Pettit
Commissioner Ashley Stanley
Commissioner Jacob Woodruff

STAFF PRESENT

Buck Tupper, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor
Dawn Richardson, Admin Billing Specialist
Jamie Ford, Admin Billing Specialist

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Chair Dana Lathrope
Commissioner Paul Barlow

CALL TO ORDER – 4:00 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from October 13, 2025

Vice Chair Blumenthal asked if everyone had read the minutes. Commissioner Jacobson requested a correction regarding the article on Milton Creek, noting that it would be Sean Clark's column and that he and Lindsay Wilson would be doing it. Commissioner Pettit requested an amendment to items 1, 3, and 4 regarding her connection issues, suggesting the wording be changed to "Commissioner out of town, video connection issues."

Motion to approve the minutes of October 13, 2025 as amended was made by Commissioner Jacobson, seconded by Commissioner Woodruff.

Voting Yea: Vice Chair Blumenthal, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Green, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Pettit, Commissioner Stanley, Commissioner Woodruff

TOPICS FROM THE FLOOR: From attendees not otherwise of the agenda

Vice Chair Blumenthal welcomed new Commissioner Stanley to the board.

NEW BUSINESS**2. Round Table Question**

Vice Chair Blumenthal posed the question: "What do you consider the most pressing thing in our parks?" Commission members identified several concerns including staffing and funding issues, park misuse, low attendance, trail maintenance and accessibility, and the need for more volunteerism.

3. Bylaws Update

Motion to postpone the Bylaws update to the next meeting was made by Commissioner Belcher, seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

Voting Yea: Vice Chair Blumenthal, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Green, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Pettit, Commissioner Stanley, Commissioner Woodruff

4. Master Plan Items

Commissioner Pettit mentioned she had plans she submitted in October 2022 for Dalton Preserve. It was agreed to postpone this item to the December meeting.

5. Term Expirations - Dana Lathrope & Scott Jacobson

Vice Chair Blumenthal noted that Commissioner Lathrope and Jacobson's terms would expire on December 31.

OLD BUSINESS**6. Parks Assessments**

The Commission discussed park assignment rotations. It was agreed to maintain the current assignments for one more month, with new Commissioner Stanley taking over assessment of Heinie Heumann Park and the Dog Park.

Motion that Commissioners continue with their current park assignments for one more month, with Commissioner Stanley assuming responsibility for Heinie Heumann Park and the Dog Park, was made by Commissioner Belcher, seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

Voting Yea: Vice Chair Blumenthal, Commissioner Belcher, Commissioner Green, Commissioner Jacobson, Commissioner Pettit, Commissioner Stanley, Commissioner Woodruff

7. Urban Trail

Commissioner Belcher presented updated maps of the Urban Trail, which had been simplified and reoriented. He noted the trail is approximately two miles long and takes about 45-50 minutes to walk. The map will be distributed to City Councilors, and the implementation of the trail will be on the agenda for an upcoming City Council meeting on November 19 at 3:00 PM.

8. Milton Creek - Standing Item

Commissioner Jacobson reported that work with the City Council regarding the Milton Creek project continues, with plans for a site visit involving Councilors and the Port Commission. Commissioner Green mentioned they plan to attend a future City Council meeting to discuss rezoning considerations for the area.

STAFF REPORT

Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Tupper reported:

- Information about park leash rules was published in the City newsletter and social media
- A large oak tree at Civic Pride Park posing a safety hazard will be removed
- A kiosk location at Civic Pride Park has been identified
- Dead trees near walking trails at McCormick Park are being removed for safety
- A replacement for the building maintenance position is in process
- The Urban Trail will be on the agenda for the next Council meeting

COUNCILOR'S REPORT

Councilor Sundeen was absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Vice Chair Blumenthal reported on the recent work party at the Botanical Gardens, noting 13 volunteers contributed approximately 30 hours. He raised concerns about e-bikes and motorized vehicles in the parks and mentioned exploring potential regulations for these vehicles in City parks.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Jamie Ford, Administrative Billing Specialist