Parks Advisory Committee

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
FOR APRIL 14, 2026

PRESENT: Beth Dittman, Nisha George, Emma Gray, Adam Peterson, Bella DePhillipo, Dustin Schull

ABSENT: Cosi Slider, Taylor Sarman

Call to Order

1. Roll Call: Emma Gray called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm, noting that committee chair Adam Peterson could not make it to the first half of the meeting. She confirmed that the members present made a quorum, since Carl Hosticka will not reapply and Cosi is currently not a voting member.

Approval of Minutes

1. March 10, 2026: Emma Gray entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the March meeting. Nisha George motioned, Emma seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Communications & Comments

1. Chair: None.
2. Staff: Bella DePhillipo shared that calendar invitations will now be sent out ahead of time for the year, and packets will be sent out closer to meeting times. Dustin Schull informed the committee that Rich's last day was Friday, and the department is currently looking at next steps for filling his position. Dustin also shared that Kate Griffin and Amanda Watson will both present at the May committee meeting.
3. Public: None.

Old Business

1. Parks & Trails Bond Update: Dustin Schull shared photos and a map of Nyberg Creek Trail, and shared that the trail is nearing completion with all of the concrete poured and all of the sod and plants in. The trail will be done within the next couple of weeks, and a ribbon cutting will be held at the end of June. Emma Gray asked if the trail is walkable now, and Dustin replied that while nothing is blocking access at the moment, he does not encourage use of the trail until final completion. Dustin also added that this project brings four of the six bond project categories to completion.

2. Park Utility Fee Update: Dustin Schull shared that the Tualatin Community Park playground replacement has been pushed back to September to keep the playground open through the summer.

3. ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Update: Dustin Schull shared the site plan and map for Basalt Creek Linear Park. He informed the committee that the project is out to bid, and that the pre-construction meeting was last week. The project will be done by mid to late summer, and Dustin reminded the committee that this park is only being lightly designed so the community can give input on the full design. Dustin also shared that the Las Casitas ribbon cutting is taking place at May 2nd at 2:00 pm, and that Bella DePhillipo will be sharing out information on parking and shuttling soon.

4. Core Opportunity Reinvestment Area Update: Beth Dittman shared that the CORA committee is currently reviewing design proposals from the University of Oregon students. Dustin Schull added that the old radio station is going to be demolished soon.

5. Committee Goals Review: Emma Gray referred the committee to the new goals document that is linked in the agenda, and then checked off the goals that have been completed and identified those that are ongoing. Dustin Schull added that the adapted list of street trees is still in process.

New Business

1. Program Update: Bella DePhillipo shared that all Juanita Pohl Center programs have moved to Van Raden with good participation, and Blender Dash registration is currently open. Dustin Schull added that 50 people came to lunch at Van Raden and Sara Shepherd got a grant for the meal program. Dustin also added that summer camp registration is full.

2. Maintenance & Operations Update: Dustin Schull shared that progress is going well on the Juanita Pohl Center renovation, with the bathroom under construction and the front door already replaced. He also shared that Tom Steiger and the Parks Maintenance team are preparing for spring, working on fields and renovating landscapes like the bridge at Lake of the Commons, and also getting water features up and running. Emma Gray asked when the splash pad at the Lake will open, and Dustin said it would be sometime in early May when the weather gets nicer. Nisha George asked if there are any other splash pads, and Dustin said there is only the large one at the Lake and the smaller one at Las Casitas, along with the small ones at Tualatin Community Park and Jurgens Park.

3. Volunteer Update: Dustin shared that the Arbor Day planting on Saturday went well, with about 100 people at Browns Ferry Park and 2500 native plants and trees planted. Dustin also shared that the maintenance team and volunteers are preparing for the emerald ash borer at Browns Ferry Park, and Nisha George asked if that work is being done in collaboration with Clean Water Services. Dustin confirmed, and Nisha asked who pays for the work. Dustin replied that Clean Water Services pays for work done in the areas that fall under their jurisdiction and the Parks Department is currently looking at how to fund the other areas.

Upcoming Dates & Calendar Review

1. Atfalati Restroom Grant, Willowbrook, Historical Society: Emma Gray pointed the committee to the calendar in the packet and confirmed that the next committee meeting is

on May 12th. Dustin Schull shared about the grant application for the Atfalati bathroom, and promised to bring a letter of support to the May meeting for the committee to review and sign. He also offered to speak offline if anyone has any questions or concerns about the letter or the grant. He added that Willowbrook Camp and the Historical Society IGA will both be at the next City Council meeting.

Committee Member Communications

1. Beth Dittman asked if there is an official parks process for requesting a trashcan at a park location, and Dustin Schull replied that the only way those requests are currently considered is when people reach out individually. Beth shared that the place where Browns Ferry Park meets the Ice Age Trail could use one, and Dustin agreed to take a look at the spot and also to talk about the organizational process in the future.
2. Nisha George thanked Dustin Schull for responding to her concern about trail potholes. She asked when the fiscal year is, and how the Parks Department interacts with that. Dustin responded that the budget process is currently in progress, and added that the Parks Advisory Committee mainly contributes to this process by providing input on Utility Fee projects. Nisha also mentioned that trail potholes are a continuing issue, especially with elderly communities, and Dustin mentioned that this is the first year that there is a budget line item for ADA trail fixes. He added that after the budget is approved, Parks staff will start walking trails to evaluate the most necessary fixes and take community comments and suggestions. Nisha asked if there is a deferred maintenance plan for the trail system, and Dustin said that there isn't one yet but it's currently being worked on in partnership with the new asset manager at Public Works. Emma Gray asked if asphalt trails will continue to be patched with asphalt or replaced with concrete, and Dustin said that would vary by location – all new projects will be concrete, but some older trails make more sense to maintain as asphalt, usually due to slope. Dustin added that the trail Nisha has been referring to makes more sense as an asphalt trail due to its steep slope, and Nisha asked if it will always be so steep. Dustin said it would most likely remain at the current slope that it is, but added that the trail will eventually connect to Lake Oswego via a pedestrian bridge over the river. Nisha asked about the potential for a community-led patching effort, and Dustin replied that he would not encourage that but added that the City is aware and working on a solution.
3. Dustin Schull encouraged everyone to let others know about the opening on the committee, since Carl Hosticka will not be reapplying. Bella DePhillipo will send the application out to the whole group via email.

Adjournment: Emma Gray adjourned the meeting at 6:54 pm.