

**Wednesday, September 17, 2025**  
**Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission**  
**Minutes**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL - The Recreation & Parks Advisory Commission meeting was held at the Community Activity Center Grand Room 1 and was called to order by Chairperson Purcell at 6:01 pm.**

**Commission Members present:**

Judy Purcell Chairperson  
Joshua Uloth Vice-Chair  
Emily Arias, At-large  
Latrina Caldwell, At-large  
Doug Crandall, At-large  
Kyle Krysinski, Central  
Taylor Murray, East  
Terry Parks, At-large  
Kellina Quigley, At-large

**Youth Liaisons:**

Councilmember Page

**Absent:**

Long Dang, East  
Miriam Osammor, East  
Abundance Anako (YL)  
Keesha Ramirez (YL)

**Brooklyn Park Staff present:**

Brad Tullberg, Director of Recreation and Parks  
Jen Gillard, Manager Recreational Programming  
Greg Hoag, Manager Maintenance Park and Facilities  
Jeanine Machan, Administrative Assistant

- 2. OPEN FORUM-PUBLIC COMMENT AND RESPONSE**

N/A

- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**A Motion was made to approve the September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 agenda by Commissioner Uloth and second by Commissioner Caldwell.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A Motion was made to Approve August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 minutes by Commissioner Caldwell and second by Commissioner Uloth.**

**Motion unanimously approved.**

- 5. ACTION ITEMS**

N/A

- 6. GENERAL INFORMATION - PRESENTATIONS**

**6.1 RECREATION SERVICES DIVISION REPORT**

Chairperson Purcell introduced Jen Gillard, Manager of Recreations Services, who provided a PowerPoint presentation (attached) on the work of the Recreation Services Division.

Comments and Questions

Chairperson Purcell asked if there was an age limit in Aquatics? Manager Gillard stated there was no age limit.

Commissioner Crandall asked what was the percentage of attendees in the Adaptive Recreation and Inclusion Services to the city population? Manager Gillard stated that statistically roughly 10% of the population have some form of disability. For the City of Brooklyn Park that would be 8k people. However, if you compare the Brooklyn Park Recreation program to surrounding cities, several surrounding cities do not have this kind of program.

Vice-Chair Uloth asked about the progress with the programming of the BIPC community? Manager Gillard stated that it is a work in progress. Staff are making progress. When connections are made, staff hear the issues the residents have and work with other organizations to solve those issues. It is hard to engage them in programming when they are dealing with other life issues.

Vice-Chair Uloth asked if rec and parks is a good way to get people comfortable with government? Manager Gillard responded that yes, it is. It is possible that some have not had a good experience in their country of origin. Rec and Parks provides a new perspective of how government is here to serve and help.

Councilmember Paige asked if we offer aqua fitness classes? Manager Gillard stated that because we share the pool with swimming teams, we do not due to the temperature of the water.

Commissioner Crandall asked if there were a lot of adults who do not know how to swim? Manager Gillard stated that there are a number of families that join together.

Commissioner Crandall asked where are the pools that hold the classes? Manager Gillard stated, Jackson Community Middle School and Brooklyn Middle School.

Vice-Chair Uloth asked if the usage fee will be waived at the Howl-O-Ween? Manager Gillard stated yes.

Vice-Chair Uloth noted that River Park Fest was during the Pride weekend. Manager Gillard stated if staff can operate with Three Rivers Park District that will change.

Vice-Chair Uloth asked if there are any thoughts in a dog walking club? Manager Gillard said that was a good thought.

Vice-Chair Uloth asked what the 2026 budget was looking like? Director Tullberg stated that overall the city is not at budget dictated by the City Council.

Vice-Chair Uloth asked if there will be cuts? Direct Tullberg stated that at this time it is not known what or if there will be cuts.

Councilmember Page stated that she has gone to most of the events and compliments the staff for their enthusiasm and professional work.

Director Tullberg thanked Manager Gillard and her staff.

Vice-Chair Uloth commented that promoting of the programs and events needs improvement.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

N/A

## **8. WRITTEN REPORTS**

8.1 PROGRAM AND EVENTS UPDATE

8.2 PARK PROJECTS UPDATE

8.3 DIRECTORS REPORT

8.4 RECENT CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEMS

Director Tullberg highlighted the Mississippi Gateway Grand Opening that occurred on September 6.

Commissioner Murray commented that it was a great event.

Director Tullberg highlighted a youth member of Zanewood through the divisional partnership of Zanewood and golf course taking lessons and learning golf, has excelled at the sport and has joined the Maple Grove High School golf team.

Director Tullberg provided information on a new project that staff is working on showing a video from the National Fitness Campaign (NFC). Staff completed an application and was awarded \$50,000 towards equipment with the National Fitness Campaign program. The city must match with \$150,000.

Comments/Questions

Chairperson Purcell asked if there are any NFC parks in the Twin Cities? Director Tullberg stated that there are two; one in Columbia Heights and the other is University of Minnesota. Director Tullberg stated that staff

are considering adding it to the Zanewood redevelopment north of the basketball court. He asked for comments.

Admin Machan asked if it needs to be staffed? Director Tullberg stated no.

Commissioner Crandall asked if staff would consider putting it in the new park area in the NW.

Chairperson Purcell stated that she felt at Zanewood would be a good location since even when Zanewood is closed there are still kids in the area.

Vice-Chair Uloth stated that there are people in the city that are unable to afford a gym membership, and this is a good alternative.

Commissioner Crandall

Commissioner Arias stated that she felt it was a great project.

Commissioner Parks asked if there was any upkeep or maintenance. Director Tullberg stated the materials used are conditioned for our area.

Commissioner Quigley asked if Zanewood is an appropriate area if the idea is to also bring in adults?

Commissioner Murray asked if additional parking would be required? Director Tullberg said the existing parking lot should be sufficient since it is intended that people will walk or bike from nearby to use the equipment.

Commissioner Parks asked if it does not go into the space noted at Zanewood, does that become wasted space? Director Tullberg said the space would remain as open green space. The Fitness Court was not originally planned as part of the project.

Several Commissioners asked if there were other parks that this would be a better fit?

Director Tullberg stated that the conversation will continue and possibly bring it up for a vote in the October meeting.

## **9. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **9.1 OPEN FORUM – QUESTION AND ANSWERS**

Vice-Chair Uloth stated that he serves on the Blue Line Cultural Displacement Committee. He stated they are considering a significant Ojibwe cultural element in the southern segment of the line. Vice-Chair Uloth wanted to bring this to the attention of staff considering the discussion staff is having about the new Northwest Park. Director Tullberg stated he will look into that and appreciated the heads up from Vice-Chair Uloth.

### **9.2 RPAC REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

Director Tullberg provided background on the policy for City Council and Commission remote participation policy. Director Tullberg reminded the commission that Grand Room 1, where we currently meet, is not set up for remote meetings. Staff are asking for discussion by Commissioners.

After discussion it was decided to leave the meetings as is.

## **10. VERBAL REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **10.1 CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Councilmember Paige**

Councilmember Paige reported the EDA had presented Biotech innovations to City Council.

### **10.2 KEY TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT RPAC MEETING**

- OCTOBER 15 – @ ZANEWOOD
  - TOUR
  - YOUTH SERVICES REPORT

### **10.3 KEY DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS**

N/A

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**A Motion was made by Commissioner Uloth to close the meeting, second by Commissioner Crandall. Motion unanimously approved.**

**Adjourned by Chairperson Purcell at 7:50 PM**

Submitted respectfully,  
Jeanine Machan  
Secretary

**Attachments:**  
**4.1A 2025 Summer Recreation Update**