

Recreation & Parks Commission Commission Meeting Minutes Synopsis

August 11, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.

Jerry Hammond Building, 1111 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205

I. Call To Order

Meeting called to order at 8:36 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners: Letha Pugh, Terrie TerMeer, Monica Cerrezuela, Elizabeth Miller, Robert Love

Absent: Gregg Dodd, Alvis Moore

Staff: Bernita Reese, Aniko Williams, Nicole Smith, Jason Nicholson, Mike Musser, Dawn Turnage, Kerry Francis Rarey, Kenton B. Curtis, Jr., Brad Barrett, Corinne Taylor, Shannon Prince, Matt Laroche, Alex Gray, Alex Passas, Malik Willoughby, Manney Clarke, Alaina Reimer, Arianna Martin, Adam Wheeler, Marissa Angellatta, Lyrik Easley, Andrea Norris, Betty Blockinger, Tavares Dishmon, Sheri-Lynn Wynn, John Cassady, Suzy Johnson, Kyra G. Jones, Antonio Combs, Jr., John Frissora, Christophe McGhee, Morgen Wade, Tony Brodie, Jamie Schlichting, Gabriella Monsignori, Chris Denney, Julie Pruett Bishop, Julia Hatton

Jacob Dilley, City Council

Emiliana Morales, City Council

Sara Ernst, Sustainable Columbus

Guests: Steven Stovensky, Community Shelter Board

III. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

No corrections to the June meeting minutes. The June minutes were approved as distributed.

IV. New Business

A. Remarks

Jacob Dilley, City Council

- Visited summer camps – Indian Village and Carriage Place to check out the programs and highlight it on social media.

- First Council meeting after recess is August 24th

B. Remarks*Office of Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff*

- Not present

C. Youth Development Presentation

- Antonio Combs introduced BRIDGE at Beatty the new Beatty Teen Center and provided an overview of the programming it will provide.
- The model for the building will be "For Teens By Teens" and will specialize to grades 6-12
- Mission and vision are to empower youth to Build, Believe & Become.
- Focusing on equity, youth voice, engagement, wellness and workforce readiness
- President Pugh asked if it is 1 or 2 floors. Antonio responded that it is 2 floors, the first floor will be used for programming and the second floor will be staff offices.
- President Pugh asked how are we making sure we have people working with those particular age groups. Antonio stated that they are able to go through some group partners for referrals.
- Vice President TerMeer stated that this totally embodies the Be BOLD initiative and kudos for hearing our young people.
- Commissioner Cerrezuela stated that young people need spaces to be kids. She asked for the timeline. Director Reese stated that she will be meeting with the contractor about that today and they are pushing for October.
- Commissioner Love stated that this is a much needed resource for the city and hopes this is just a start for the community. It taps into what youth are looking for.

D. Community Shelter Board Presentation

- Steve Stovensky gave an overview of the Community Shelter Board and the programs and services they offer to the community.
- Asked to partner with the department during extreme weather events.
- Shared key elements and outcomes from winter 2025/2026.
- After several questions and comments from commissioners and staff, Director Reese stated there will be a meeting to talk through the operational needs.

E. Consent Agenda

No legislation

F. Administration Agenda

No legislation

G. Arts, Rentals & Events Agenda

1. Film Code Chapter 924 (2206-2026)

Title: To authorize the Recreation and Parks Department to seek to adopt a new Chapter 924- Film Permits to allow administration of film specific permits by the Department of Recreation and Parks. (\$0.00)

- Jason Nicholson presented
- No questions

2. Ohio Arts Council Arts Partnership Grant 2026 (2215-2026)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into a grant agreement with the Ohio Arts Council and accept a grant in the amount of \$14,372.00 for Fran Ryan Center Arts Programming; and to authorize the appropriation of \$14,372.00 in the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund and declare an emergency. (\$14,372.00)

- Jason Nicholson presented
- No questions

3.

Ohio Arts Council Sustainability Grant 2026 (2216-2026)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into a grant agreement with the Ohio Arts Council and accept a grant in the amount of \$30,848.00 for the Priscilla R. Tyson Cultural Arts Center Programming; and to authorize the appropriation of \$30,848.00 in the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund and declare an emergency. (\$30,848.00)

- Jason Nicholson presented
- No questions

On a motion made by Vice President TerMeer and seconded by Commissioner Love, the commission approved the Arts, Rentals and Events Agenda.

H. Capital Agenda

1. Marion Franklin Exterior Improvements - Construction (2197-2026)

Title: To authorize the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with Berglund Construction Company for the Marion Franklin Exterior Improvements Project; to authorize the expenditure of \$1,015,000.00 from the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$1,015,000.00)

- Jim Miller presented
- No questions

2. Marion Franklin Pool – Construction Management and Inspection Services Modification (2198-2026)

Title: To authorize the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to modify an existing contract with CTL Engineering, Inc. for the Marion Franklin Pool Replacement Project; to authorize the transfer of \$200,000.00 between the General Fund Income Tax Set Aside Subfund and the Recreation and Parks Bond Fund; to authorize the appropriation of \$200,000.00 in the Income Tax Set Aside Subfund and Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; to authorize the expenditure of \$200,000.00 from the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$200,000.00)

- Jim Miller presented
- President Pugh expects us to follow through with damages. Asked what type of conversations have been had with Marker management. Jim said he has spoke to several people and they are committed to making this whole.

3. Marion Franklin Pool Replacement – CMR Modification 2 (2200-2026)

Title: To authorize the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to modify an existing contract with Marker Construction, LLC for the Marion Franklin Pool Replacement Project; to authorize the transfer of \$1,009,727.00 between the General Fund Income Tax Set Aside Subfund and the Recreation and Parks Bond Fund; to authorize the appropriation of \$1,009,727.00 in the Income Tax Set Aside Subfund and Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; to authorize the expenditure of \$1,009,727.00 from the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$1,009,727.00)

- Jim Miller presented
- No questions

4. Greenways Improvements 2025-2026 – Construction (2199-2026)

Title: To authorize the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with CAP-STONE & Associates, Inc. for the Greenways Improvements 2025-2026 Project; to authorize the transfer of \$802,428.93 within the Recreation and Parks Permanent Improvement Fund; to authorize the expenditure of \$802,428.93 from the Recreation and Parks Permanent Improvement Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$802,428.93)

- Jamie Schlichting presented
- No questions

5. Playground Renovations 2025-2026 – Construction (2201-2026)

Title: To authorize the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with 2K General Company for the Playground Renovations 2025-2026 Project; to authorize the transfer of \$1,556,135.75 between the General Fund Income Tax Set Aside Subfund and the Recreation and Parks Bond Fund; to authorize the appropriation of \$1,556,135.75 in the Income Tax Set Aside Subfund and Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; to authorize the transfer of \$785,904.25.00 within the Recreation and Parks Permanent Improvement Fund; to authorize the expenditure of \$2,392,040.00 from the Recreation and Parks Permanent Improvement Fund, Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund, and Public Utilities Electricity Operating Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$2,392,040.00)

- Presented by Gariella Monsignori
- No questions

6. McCoy Park, Greenleaf Park, and Berliner Park Improvements – Design Modification 3 (2204-2026)

Title: To authorize the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to modify an existing contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. to provide architectural and engineering services for the Gender Road Park and McCoy Park Improvements Project; to authorize the transfer of \$941,941.53 between the General Fund Income Tax Set Aside Subfund and the Recreation and Parks Bond Fund; to authorize the appropriation of \$941,941.53 in the Income Tax Set Aside Subfund and Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; to authorize the expenditure of \$941,941.53 from the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$941,941.53)

- Brad Westall presented
- No questions

7. Big Walnut Trail – Airport to Whitehall – MORPC Grant Application (2205-2026)

Title: To authorize the Director of Recreation and Parks to apply for Transportation Alternative Program grant funding through The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) which will be used to build a section of the Big Walnut Trail, from the south edge of Gahanna to the Far East Community of Columbus, including a connector to Whitehall; and to declare an emergency. (\$0)

- Brad Westall presented
- No questions

8. Clean Ohio Conservation Fund – Fiscal Year 2027 Grant Applications (2203-2026)

Title: To authorize the Director of Recreation and Parks to apply for grant funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) Clean Ohio Conservation Fund to preserve natural areas and green space in the 2027 fiscal year, including the acquisition of two properties for preservation of the City’s natural resources and future parkland; and to declare an emergency. (\$0)

- Brad Westall presented
- No questions

On a motion made by Commissioner Cerrezuela and seconded by Commissioner Love, the commission approved the Capital Agenda.

I. Community Centers Agenda

No legislation

J. Operations & Maintenance Agenda**1. Tree Assistance Program – FWSCD 2026 Agreement (2202-2026)**

Title: To authorize the Director of Columbus Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to support the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department’s Tree Assistance Program; and to authorize the expenditure of \$62,200.00 from the Recreation and Parks Special Purpose Fund. (\$62,200.00)

- Matt Laroche presented
- No questions

On a motion made by Vice President TerMeer and seconded by Commissioner Miller, the commission approved the Operations and Maintenance Agenda.

K. Recreation Services Agenda

No legislation

L. Youth Development Agenda

No legislation

V. Department & Project Update

R.I. S. E. update – Julia Hatton

- Julia shared a draft of the goals. The committee has identified 3 primary areas of focus – physical access, language access and strengthening partnerships. Will continue providing updates.
- Seeking to develop relationships with organizations that can help provide multilingual support and outreach.

VI. CRP Foundation Update

- Golf outing on July 10th was successful. There were 24 foursomes.
- Planning for 2027. PLAY Golf outing is scheduled for Friday, April 9th at Top Golf. This will also kick off the Master's Tournament.
 - Working on a naming rights partner
- Working with a private donor on the tree assistance program who will give a leadership gift of \$150,000 over 2 years to support that effort. This will be used to assist residents on private tree removal. Will possibly sign the agreement today.
- Hosted a summer soiree on July 30th. Well attended with 25 individuals came out. Looking forward to do something again in mid-October.
- Another fundraiser is a benefit show at Finnegan's Wake in Pickerington, OH. They will be collecting donations on behalf of the foundation and dollars will go towards Adopt-A-Center. Will be hosted on Saturday, August 15th from 8pm – 10:30pm. Also asking people to bring in hygiene items.
- All info will be on website and in newsletter.

VII. Director's Comments

- Thank you to Keiana and the foundation for the PLAY Golf Outing.
- Thank you to staff for summer camps and asked zone managers and Kyra to stand to be recognized.
- Announced that this is Commissioner Miller's last meeting and thanked her for serving on the commission.

VIII. Public Comments

- No public comments

IX. Commission Comments

- Being Commissioner Miller's last meeting she commented that she is honored to have served and work alongside all of those in the department. Is in awe of Director Reese and her leadership and care. Has learned so much about Recreation and Parks and all of the work being done in the community for those that we serve. Very excited about the master plan and the Linden Green Line. Wanted to share her gratitude for all of the work being done by the department to make the spaces we serve better.

X. Adjournment

The August meeting adjourned at 10:27a.m.