THE CITY OF COLUMBUS
RECREATION AND PARKS
www.columbus.gov

1111 East Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43205

Recreation & Parks Commission
Commission Meeting Minutes Synopsis

October 13, 2026 – 8:30 a.m.
Jerry Hammond Building, 1111 E. Broad St., Columbus, OH 43205

I. Call To Order

Meeting called to order at 8:35 a.m.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners: Letha Pugh, Terrie TerMeer, Monica Cerrezuela, Robert Love, Gregg Dodd and Alvis Moore

Absent: None

Staff: Bernita Reese, Aniko Williams, Nicole Smith, Mike Musser, Marissa Angellatta, Dawn Turnage, Kerry Francis Rarey, Kasey Kaschak, Shannon Prince, Nikki Van Dine, Mary Grace Palmer, Alex Passas, Manney Clarke, Lyrik Easley, Tavares Dishmon, Antonio Combs, Jr., Scott Ulrich, Brad Barrett, Julia Hatton, Matt Laroche, Sheri Lynn Wynn, Tony Brodie, Morgen Wade, Rachel Hardenbrook, Bill Behnke, Suzy Johnson, Jamie Schlichting

Jacob Dilley, City Council
Emiliana Morales, City Council
Keiana Mitchell, CRP Foundation

Guests: Cathy Levine, B.R.E.A.D., Rob Sievert-Wagner, B.R.E.A.D.

III. Acceptance of Previous Minutes

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

IV. New Business

A. Remarks

Jacob Dilley, City Council

- Capital budget review is in process. City Council will do their due process.
- Thank you to community centers team for hosting 9-11 nooks
- As the Columbus Board initiative Veteran's Dinner will be held on November 4th at 5pm

- CM Day-Achauer will be hosing a youth organization summit on November 5th from 8:30am – 5pm at the Convention Center. Registrations are underway. This summit is for non-profit organizations seeking summer youth grants.
- Very pleased to pass a grant through council to be the presenting sponsor for the Adopt-A- Center program this year.

B. Remarks

Office of Mayor's Deputy Chief of Staff

- Director Reese updated commission that Craig Conley is no longer our Deputy Chief. Our new Deputy Chief is Tracy Townsend. Will meet with her soon to get her direction for the department and to provide her with updates.

C. Consent Agenda

No legislation

D. Administration Agenda

No legislation

E. Arts, Rentals & Events Agenda

No legislation

F. Capital Agenda

1. **Playground Renovations 2026 – Lazelle & Warner Woods Construction (2849-2026)**

   Title: To authorize the Director of the Recreation and Parks Department to enter into contract with Builderscape, Inc. for the Playground Renovations 2025-2026 – Lazelle and Warner Woods Project; to authorize the appropriation of $1,699,894.30 within the Recreation and Parks Permanent Improvement Fund; to authorize the transfer of $1,699,894.30 within the Recreation and Parks Permanent Improvement Fund; to authorize the amendment of the 2025 Capital Improvements Budget; to authorize the expenditure of $1,699,894.30 from the Recreation and Parks Permanent Improvement Fund; and to declare an emergency. ($1,699,894.30)

   - Morgen Wade presented
   - No questions

2. **Columbus Water and Power – Driving Park Improvements (2850-2026)**
   Title: To authorize the Director of Columbus Power and Water (CWP), on behalf of the Recreation and Parks Department, to enter into contract with Danbert, Inc. for the Kent Fairwood Storm Sewer Improvements & Gault Street Waterline Improvements Project as this project includes

improvements within Driving Park; to authorize the transfer of $62,629.03 within the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; to authorize the amendment of the 2025 Capital Improvements Budget; to authorize the expenditure of $62,629.03 from the Recreation and Parks Voted Bond Fund; and to declare an emergency. ($62,629.03)

- Morgen Wade presented
- No questions

On a motion made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Vice President TerMeer, the commission approved the Capital Agenda.

G. Community Centers Agenda

1. FCDJFS OST Grant - Afterschool Rec Club (ARC) (2846-2026)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to accept a grant in the amount of $40,000.00 and enter into an agreement with the Franklin County Department of Job and Family Services to provide salary support for Rec Aides administering Afterschool Rec Club; to appropriate to $40,00.00 the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund ($40,000.00)

- Mary Grace Palmer presented
- President Pugh asked how many aides this would cover and Mary Grace saif she believes it is 7 of them.

On a motion made by Commissioner Dodd and seconded by Commissioner Moore, the commission approved the Community Centers Agenda.

H. Operations & Maintenance Agenda

1. Ohio Attorney General's Illegal Dumping Grant (2848-2026)

Title: To authorize and direct the Director of Recreation and Parks to accept a grant in the amount of $95,503.70 and enter into an agreement with the Ohio Attorney General to provide illegal dumping clean-up services and educational signate at Island View Nature Preserve; to appropriate to $95,503.70 the Recreation and Parks Grant Fund ($95,503.70)

- Mary Grace Palmer presented
- President TerMeer asked if this includes disposal and Mary Grace replied yes.
- Commissioner Love asked what is in place to prevent this in the future. Tina Mohn explained that we are looking to acquire this property and gave the background information pertaining to it.

On a motion made by Commissioner Moore and seconded by Commissioner Love, the commission approved the Operations and Maintenance Agenda.

I. Recreation Services Agenda

No legislation

J. Youth Development Agenda

No legislation

V. Department & Project Update

R.I. S. E. update – Julia Hatton

- Provided an update on two of the committees focus areas
  - Partnerships – developing an internal resource guide identifying organizations with multilingual communication and culturally responsive outreach to make them accessible across the department.
  - Physical Accessibility – Evaluating existing resources, exploring opportunities to better understand the accessibility throughout our parks and facilities as it pertains to playgrounds and restrooms. Reviewing several of the resources that are already available.
- Exploring how to incorporate this information into a digital platform.

VI. CRP Foundation Update

- October board meeting this afternoon. Will be electing a new board member – David Whiteside of Kemba Credit Union.
- Received a grant from the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation for $25,000 to support Center Without Walls. Grant reception is October 20th.
- Partnered with Spectrum to run a commercial from October 15th through November 15th for Adopt-A-Center.
- Promotional video shoot on Friday for the Accelerate Columbus at Lashutka.
- Tree planting on October 29th at Maybury Park.
- The Cranes provided an additional donation for tree plantings in communities that were affected by tornadoes.

VII. Director's Comments

- Welcomed Commissioner Dodd back.
- NRPA conference took place a couple of weeks ago. 2027 conference will take place in Houston, Texas. 2028 conference will take place here

in Columbus. Jason Nicholson and Kenton B. Curtis, Jr., are the chairpersons for the conference.
- Thank you to Brad Barrett for turning in our budget.
- Was questioned about the private tree code – explained that recovery from the tornado is still underway. Thanked staff.
- Encouraged those who can to go see the Robinhood play.

VIII. Public Comments

- Cathy Levine with the B.R.E.AD. organization spoke about the proposed ordinance to protect trees on private property.
    - Vice President TerMeer addressed some of the concerns and explained that the city is continuing our work on it but it is just not ready yet.
    - Mike Musser will get Ms. Levine the Tree Subcommission meeting information.

IX. Commission Comments

None

X. Adjournment

The October meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.