

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
3-26-2025

Call to Order

Doris called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Edward Lock	<i>present</i>	Karen Fitzgerald	<i>present</i>
Robyn Taylor	<i>present</i>	Molly Slaid	<i>present</i>
Heather Tuggle	<i>present</i>	Michelle Mitcham	<i>present</i>
Lynda Schubring	<i>present</i>	Isaac Recinos	<i>present</i>
Jennie Kent		Alexander Harris	<i>present</i>
Doris Michalak	<i>present</i>	Robert Basford	<i>present</i>
Rachel Beazley	<i>present</i>	Maria Thorne	<i>present</i>
Thomas Huebner			

Approval of Minutes from 3-6-25

A motion was made to approve the minutes by Robyn and was seconded by Lynda.

Correct last name Micham

Citizens Comments

None

Items for individual consideration

The Parks Master Plan, developed between 2019 and 2020, serves as a long-term strategic guide for the planning, development, and management of parks, trails, recreation facilities, and open spaces in the community. It was crafted with input from the public, data analysis, and professional expertise to ensure that the park system meets both current and future needs. The plan includes components such as a community needs assessment, inventory and analysis, demographic trends, goals, recommendations, funding strategy, and an implementation plan. Projects were prioritized into high, medium, and low tiers, with a focus on high-priority initiatives. At the five-year mark, most of these high-priority projects have been completed or are under review for feasibility. The meeting focused on reviewing completed and ongoing projects and discussing next steps, such as revisiting lower-priority projects, considering new initiatives, or conducting a five-year review in-house.

Recent updates include the completion of the Carol Fox Park Restroom project, which is now open for residents, and the phased improvements at Carol Fox Park. The first phase included updates to the playground, sidewalks, and picnic areas, and a new themed play structure inspired by a pirate ship is expected to be completed by summer. Future phases may include additional memorial areas, a rentable venue space, and further park-wide improvements, such as sidewalks and decorative lighting. Lighting issues have been addressed with adjustments to existing poles and the installation of new volleyball court lighting, set for completion in April.

The Clark Henry Park play fields are being redesigned, with Option B emerging as the preferred layout. This plan optimizes field usage for various age groups while addressing security concerns with potential fencing. Improvements will also include backstops, bleachers, dugouts, and turf enhancements. The project is moving into the construction document phase, with construction slated for the fall season or early spring.

Discussions also covered several other park improvements. At the Jersey Meadow Nature Trail, recycled plastic benches were added, improving accommodation for seniors. The city also installed

a filtered water bottle filling station, with ongoing discussions about visibility and maintenance. Other safety and infrastructure improvements, such as barricades at the volleyball area and the pavilion at the dog park, were discussed, alongside potential modifications to Philippine Park and concerns about flooding.

The committee explored several budget and prioritization issues, including the funding for park projects, with some high-cost items like shaded seating areas being prioritized over larger, more expensive initiatives. Equity in park development was also highlighted, focusing on providing amenities for underserved neighborhoods and apartment residents. The city aims to improve accessibility, with a goal of ensuring parks are within a ten-minute walk of residents, while addressing gaps in access.

Upcoming projects and discussions include expanding the trail system to connect with Houston's network, enhancing community engagement, and improving park facilities with a focus on safety and infrastructure. The committee also plans to refine the Parks Master Plan over the next 12 months, including preparations for budget discussions. Advocacy for additional funding and staffing, as well as creative solutions to stretch the budget, are part of the ongoing strategy. The next meeting is scheduled for April 3rd, where the committee will review progress on key initiatives and prioritize projects for the new facility, particularly the fitness center, which has received significant community interest.


Future agenda item request

Next Meeting Date

Next Regular PARAC meeting: Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Heather and was seconded by Rachel.



Maria Thorne, Administrative Assistant