

PARKS COMMISSION
Heman Park Community Center
975 Pennsylvania Ave.

Tuesday, September 16, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by James Wilke at 6:36.

B. ROLL CALL

In attendance: Commission President James Wilke, Commission Members Amy Gascon, Josh Winstral, John Solodar, Lisa Hummel. Also, in attendance was Councilman Steve McMahon, Deputy Director of Parks Maintenance Todd Strubhart, Deputy Director of Recreation Lynda Euell-Taylor, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Jim Kruschke.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Josh motioned and John seconded, all in favor

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 18, 2025 - revised version from September 16th at 8:05am, Todd pointed out that Round 25 should be Round 26. John motioned to approve, and Josh seconded, all in favor
2. April 8, 2025 Special – previously approved
3. May 20, 2025 – previously approved
4. July 15, 2025 – Edit to #3 to fix the typo in Park Master Plan, Lisa made a motion to approve, Josh seconded

E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

F. DEPARTMENT REPORT

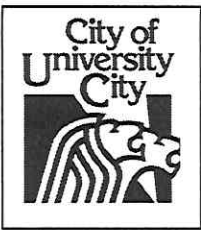
Jim Kruschke is the Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. He provided a Monthly Director Report in the commission packet. The city is working on hiring a permanent Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry. Jim plans to provide a monthly Directors Report for each meeting.

G. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Steve McMahon was not at the meeting so no council liaison report.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Annual Report – Park priorities report needs to be updated and this was something specifically mentioned in the passing of the St. Louis County



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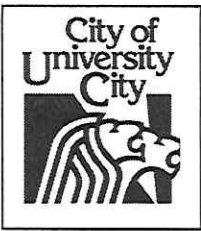
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Municipal Park Grants Round 25 by City Council. The recreation goals were not in the park priorities. Todd brought up that the overall comprehensive park master plan was last updated in 2008. This committee needs to be the first draft of the park priorities. Then the committee will need to determine if another Park Master Plan needs to occur. Lisa Hummel and Amy Gascon will be on this committee.

2. Rules & Regulations – Collect all the regulations exist in the Parks Department, determine which ones are “real” rules because the regulations need to be approved by city council and not all regulations that were found were approved by the city council. This committee needs to make sure the regulations are up to date and then get approved by council. James mentioned that after the rules and regulations are finalized and approved by council, these can be posted online. Josh Winstral and James Wilke will be on this committee.
3. Budget – Parks commission should review the Parks Department budget before it goes to city council. The budget process will start in January and February. Amy Gascon and John Solodar will be on this committee.

I. PARKS REPORTS

1. Flynn Park – Josh Winstral – looks great
2. Janet Majerus Park – Josh Winstral – haven’t been to recently, update from
3. Metcalfe Park – Josh Winstral – no update
4. U City Dog Park – Josh Winstral- looks great, utilizing it frequently and loves it
5. Fogerty Park – John Solodar – looks good, forgot to check if the drinking fountain was leaking
6. Greensfelder Park – John Solodar – whole bunch of live trees with hanging down limbs. Per Todd, it should be addressed in November.
7. Joseph Adams Park – John Solodar – good shape
8. Ruth Park Golf Course – John Solodar – it’s been too hot for John to be out there
9. Millar Park – Lisa Hummel – a giant limb fell on the new fence, women’s bathroom needs some attention, rust on the toilet, and rust on the changing table, the women’s restroom needs trash cans for women’s menstrual products, hornets/bees around playground
10. Rabe Park – Lisa Hummel – plenty of wood chips, drinking fountain working
11. Ruth Park Woods – Lisa Hummel – shelter took some damage from tornado and graffiti on the artwork
12. Lewis Park – Amy Gascon – wood chips put down recently, wall around pond needs repairs, missing stones, fountain in pond not working
13. Shelly Welsch Park – Amy Gascon – no update
14. Mooney Park – Amy Gascon – hornet nest in fire truck
15. Ackert Park/ Greenway South – James Wilke – splash pad was working



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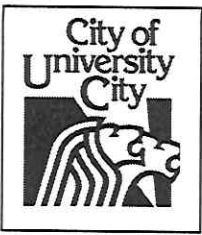
16. Heman Park – James Wilke – need clay for field for girls softball, can we make sure the trash cans get emptied the day before a game, tree down on Midland, soccer field on Olive side gets set up on infield dirt of baseball field, the field becomes unplayable if it rains, there is also a swell in the field that needs to be filled, one of digital signs near Midland and Vernon wasn't working
17. Mona Trail – James Wilke – giant bump in paved trail
18. Centennial Commons
19. Heman Park Pool – Josh Winstral – pool was wonderful this year, volleyball was well used, splash pad was well utilized
20. Community Center
21. Eastgate Park – James Wilke – fence needs to be looked at
22. Kaufman Park – Lisa Hummel – drinking fountains working, benches by playground, one of the slates is broken

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Golf Course Driving Range – five (5) year revenue review and discussion – revenue from fiscal year 23-24 for the driving range was \$324k. Driving range closed from Labor Day 2022 until April 2023 for the first phase of the driving range construction adding in pipes for drainage. Driving range closed July 29, 2024, through current due to dirt and leveling issues (dirt received from the Target construction project on Olive). James inquired about the overall golf course revenue work, the enterprise fund, and expenses for the golf course. Jim has these items on his to-do list, and he will get back to the commission.
2. Golf Course Driving Range – staff update - conference call this past Friday with Navigate (new project manager for the driving range). Navigate is starting the process of producing an RFQ to get a design and engineering firm, which will have completed by Jan/Feb 2026. Then they will go out to bid to identify a company to complete the work at the driving range. Estimating the driving range will be back open in fall of 2026. Lighting on the driving range was brought up and James mentioned there was a lawsuit around lighting/driving range usage.

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Jack Buck Field in Heman Park - recommendations to utilize open space – the Parks Department staff is recommending the outfield of Jack Buck field would be best utilized for soccer fields. Could be used for youth soccer, 6 vs 6 or 9 vs 9 size fields. The old fence is grandfathered in as it is a flood plain, the right field fence was put up with FEMA funds. There are 3 points of entry to the field, they are currently locked but would be unlocked to allow teams to practice soccer there. Will need to purchase goals for the field. Discussion was held around holding off on the soccer fields while reviewing the park priorities. Jim suggested



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that we move forward with soccer fields there for now because it is a minimal cost and we can always change the usage of the area down the road. John motioned to leave fence up, Josh seconded, all in favor to leave fence up. John motioned to use temporarily as soccer field, Josh seconded, all in favor.

2. Heman Park – recommendation to remove and replace parking lot barriers in FY 26/27 – Champs will take the old telephone poles then the city could replace the telephone poles. The city could replace the telephone poles with stone pavers/wall. Amy inquired as to why there is discussion of replacing the telephone poles with stone pavers and not paving the parking lot and putting in parking barriers. There was discussion about flooding and if the paving could even happen in the park. James recommended replacing the broken telephone poles, which does not need to be approved by the commission. Todd suggested checking with the Land Water Conservation and D&R to see if the road and parking lot can be paved to see if that would be something to include in the park priorities for Heman Park.

L. COMMISSION COMMENTS

None

M. ADJOURNMENT

Lisa motioned to adjourn at 8:09, John seconded, all in favor.