

PARKS COMMISSION
Heman Park Community Center
975 Pennsylvania Ave.

Tuesday, October 21, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by James Wilke at 6:33.

B. ROLL CALL

In attendance: Commission President James Wilke, Commission Members Amy Gascon, Josh Winstral, John Solodar. Also, in attendance was Deputy Director of Parks Maintenance Todd Strubhart, Deputy Director of Recreation Lynda Euell-Taylor, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry Jim Krischke. The following member joined the meeting at 6:45: Councilman Steve McMahon.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

John motioned, Josh seconded and all were in favor.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. September 16, 2025 – The following edits need to be made: remove Steve McManon from the roll call, second page of the minutes add a t to brought in the first sentence at the top of the page, in the Jack Buck Field Heman Park section floodplain should be floodway. John motioned to approve, Josh seconded and all were in favor.

E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

F. DEPARTMENT REPORT

In talks with Cardinals Care about moving the scoreboard at Jack Buck field. Expect to hear about the municipal grant in late October/early November. Two new playgrounds are being installed now. Senior survey is being conducted by Linda Pritchard to get input from seniors on programming at Centennial Commons. Great River Greenway is assessing the opportunity to move forward with an extension to their Centennial Greenway Trail. Farmers Market the lease is up for using the parking lot at Centennial Commons at the end of November. The annual trash bash is scheduled for Saturday, October 25th 9-12. Trick or Treat is Friday, October 24th 5-7pm, it looks like it is going to rain on Friday night. The city will make the call on Friday midday about Trick or Treat, and the rain plan is to move it inside around the indoor soccer field. Other activities the Parks and Recreational department is planning are a family puzzle night, a kid's holiday charcuterie board, a senior outing at the golf course.



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G. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

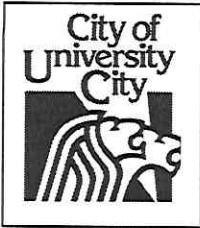
The apartment complex/townhouses at Enclave at Canton Ave project seems to be stalling out as it goes through some of the other commissions. Steve received a memory book in the mail for his grandson's summer camp that was hosted by the U City Parks Department.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Annual Report – Lisa Hummel, Amy Gascon, TBD – Reviewed the last set of park priorities and sent them out to each commission member and asked everyone to assess if these priorities have been addressed. Update on the park priorities is included below.
2. Rules & Regulations – Josh Winstral, James Wilke, TBD – a set of rules and regulations has been pulled together, and the committee will review in the December time frame.
3. Budget – John Solodar, Amy Gascon, TBD – committee will meet once the budget process has begun.

I. PARKS REPORTS

1. Flynn Park – Josh Winstral – no current concerns
2. Janet Majerus Park – Josh Winstral – no current concerns
3. Metcalfe Park – Josh Winstral – no current concerns
4. U City Dog Park – Josh Winstral – no current concerns
5. Fogerty Park – John Solodar – light on 24 hours a day at northeast corner of the trail and the water fountain next to the bathroom building is leaking
6. Greensfelder Park – John Solodar – no current concerns
7. Joseph Adams Park – John Solodar – no current concerns
8. Ruth Park Golf Course – John Solodar – Cart path on fifth hole, the path is broken up, and pieces are on the cart path. There is a pipe broken around the first fairway across by cart path and path is washed out and replaced with gravel.
9. Millar Park – Lisa Hummel – Lisa wasn't at the meeting so no comments.
10. Rabe Park – Lisa Hummel – Lisa wasn't at the meeting so no comments.
11. Ruth Park Woods – Lisa Hummel – Lisa wasn't at the meeting so no comments.
12. Lewis Park – Amy Gascon – stones around the pond needs to be replaced
13. Shelly Welsch Park – Amy Gascon – crack in top of one slide and indentation in plastic at top of the other slide.
14. Mooney Park – Amy Gascon - no current concerns
15. Ackert Park/ Greenway South – James Wilke – park looks good other than regular maintenance (cutting back dead plants, etc.)
16. Heman Park – James Wilke – will mulch be delivered to the park? Double ground leaf mulch will be in the park by Friday this week.



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17. Mona Trail – James Wilke –There is a section of the trail that has been uprooted
18. Centennial Commons - TBD
19. Heman Park Pool - TBD
20. Community Center - TBD
21. Eastgate Park – James Wilke – no current concerns
22. Kaufman Park – Lisa Hummel – Slats on bench near older kids' part of the playground are completely broken off.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Golf Course Driving Range – project/schedule update – Navigate wrote with the City an RFQ with submission deadline of October 28th, these will be reviewed by the review committee and then it will go to Gregory Rose before going to City Council for approval. It should certainly be on the November 24th agenda for council to approve the Design firm. Over the winter months the Parks Department will work to find a contractor to do the work on the range with hopefully starting that work in spring 2026. Trying for a fall 2026 reopening of the driving range.
2. Heman Park Improvement – parking lot barriers options – 3 options to address the issue:
 - i. Replace existing deteriorating/damaged utility poles with new utility poles – least expensive option, cost \$2,000, but would be labor by city employees.
 - ii. Replace existing deteriorating/damaged utility poles with decorative boulders – cost is between \$44,000 and \$58,000 and would be labor by city employees.
 - iii. Replace existing deteriorating/damaged utility poles with blacktop parking lots, would need to get permits as it is in a floodplain not a floodway, internal permit. Estimated costs could be approx. \$1 million, this pricing is an estimate by the Parks Department. They didn't get a formal price from a contractor. This pricing doesn't include any parking bumpers.
 - iv. Could do some combination of these options.

Tabling for the next meeting.

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and Discussion of Existing Park Master Plans – see attachments summaries. Full Master plans can be found on the City Website. Jim's commentary: it's going to be hard to compete with Clayton and some surrounding areas that have big aquatic centers, rinks, etc. Looking at our parks there are lots of open spaces with lots of potential. We're losing site of our existing facilities and parks and the maintenance necessary for them. Master plans need to be



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refreshed. Todd indicated when grant applications are made they inquire about the outdated master plan, so a new master plan would be helpful. Jim could have someone from a Parks Master Plan consulting firm come to a future meeting.

2. Review and Discussion of Park Priorities – see attachments from Commission Member Gascon – Below is an update on the park priorities from each Commissioner. Next step is to identify which park priorities remain open and add to that input from City staff on current park and facility needs along with other needs and priorities identified by the Commission.
 - i. Flynn Park – Josh Winstral – Tennis courts canopies haven't been added for shade.
 - ii. Janet Majerus Park – Josh Winstral – nothing on priority list
 - iii. Metcalfe Park – Josh Winstral – nothing on priority list
 - iv. U City Dog Park – Josh Winstral – nothing on priority list.
 - v. Fogerty Park – John Solodar – nothing on priority list
 - vi. Greensfelder Park – John Solodar – Master plan 2019 has not been implemented as the plan was met with resistance from the neighbors.
 - vii. Joseph Adams Park – John Solodar –nothing on priority list
 - viii. Ruth Park Golf Course – John Solodar – there were a number of projects for the golf course on the priority list.
 - a. The enclosed cart shelter is complete. However, the proposed roof seating area was not. There is a roof over the area, but it is not shaped or equipped for anyone to sit on it. The proposed shelter at the end of the driving range has not been installed.
 - b. Protective netting for the driving range was installed and still looks to be in good condition.
 - c. Lights for the driving range have not been installed. The loss of a lawsuit over lighting in the past might be the reason for this. Neighbors argued that the lights bothered them and when they bought their homes, the lights were not there. The lawsuit resulted in the removal of the then existing lights.
 - d. A short game practice area is present, although it appears to be fairly small.
 - e. The putting green near the 1st tee was not installed.
 - f. The parking lot is currently in good condition, so the repairs must have been made.
 - ix. Millar Park – Lisa Hummel – Lisa wasn't at the meeting so no comments.
 - x. Rabe Park – Lisa Hummel – Lisa wasn't at the meeting so no comments.
 - xi. Ruth Park Woods – Lisa Hummel – Lisa wasn't at the meeting so no comments.
 - xii. Lewis Park – Amy Gascon –Park priority was implementing Master Park Plan II - After reviewing the Phase II implementation with park neighbors, citizen comments were negative with regarding to the desire for a natural



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playscape and there were concerns about water run-off issues and the use of the area for kid's playing catch

- xiii. Shelly Welsch Park – Amy Gascon – a walking lane and gazebos have not been installed. It doesn't appear the playground was refurbished, but city staff will confirm.
- xiv. Mooney Park – Amy Gascon – basketball court was resurfaced but the striping has not been completed. It doesn't appear the playground was updated for ADA compliance, but city staff will confirm.
- xv. Ackert Park/ Greenway South – James Wilke – Ackert Park master plan was implemented.
- xvi. Heman Park – James Wilke –refurbished basketball court is on hold while waiting on municipal grant, mobile stage has been in and out of the budget but hasn't been updated, trail improvements have been made and are in pretty good shape, ADA improvements to playground still haven't been made, overall aesthetic improvements that are discussed in the park master plan haven't been made, athletic fields have been improved over the year but updates to the fencing haven't been made, with all the fields there aren't any fences in front of the team benches.
- xvii. Mona Trail – James Wilke – trail was resurfaced. There is a section of the trail that has been uprooted
- xviii. Centennial Commons - TBD
- xix. Heman Park Pool - TBD
- xx. Community Center - TBD
- xxi. Eastgate Park – James Wilke – the resurfacing has not happened
- xxii. Kaufman Park – Lisa Hummel – Lisa wasn't at the meeting so no comments.

L. COMMISSION COMMENTS

None

M. ADJOURNMENT – motioned to adjourn by John at 8:10 and seconded by Josh, all were in favor.