



**PARKS COMMISSION**  
**Heman Park Community Center**  
**975 Pennsylvania Ave.**

**Tuesday, May 20, 2025**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by James Wilke at 6:34

**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, Deputy City Manager – Development, Brooke Sharp.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Lisa motioned to add Park Reports and move the Farmers Market up in the agenda to once Brooke arrived and Amy seconded, all in favor. Lisa motioned to approve the amended agenda, John seconded, all in favor.

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 1) April 15, 2025 Meeting – Amy motioned to approve, Josh seconded, all in favor
- 2) April 8, 2025 Special Meeting – Amy motioned to add the date and location of the meeting to the minutes, Josh seconded, all in favor

**E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION - none**

**F. DEPARTMENT REPORT**

- 1) Splash Pad – 3200 sq ft splash pad, it's up and running. It's a recirculation tank, which is more environmentally friendly.
- 2) Golf Course Revenue & Expenses for five (5) years – tabling this topic until the next meeting
- 3) Millar Park Baseball Field Improvement progress – still at 50% completion due to all the rain that has been happening. Once we get dry weather, they will put the fence posts in and get the backstop up, then irrigation and rock, then turf. Infield turf is in and the drainage system is in. The dirt used in the in field is used by the MLB so it should drain very well as compared to the Jack Buck field.

**G. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

Last week Steve got a tour of the new police facilities, it looks nice. The ceiling still needs to go in but the windows and the things they've found look nice, restoring the property. It should be wrapped up in the near future. Dierbergs is ground breaking May 29<sup>th</sup>. Steve thanked the staff for getting the pool pump fixed so the pool can open for Memorial Day weekend.

**H. COMMISSION MEMBERS PARK INSPECTIONS REPORT**

Ruth Park Woods – lots of tornado damage to trees, due to down trees right now park is essentially unusable because the entry is blocked, two of art installations (wooden) are down on the ground due from storm  
Kaufmann Park – Red sculpture the sign for it is on the ground, large drop off from walkway to ground for the walkway around park

Millar Park – large drop off from walkway to ground for the walkway around park, Lisa was happy to report there was soap in the bathroom, no waste basket in the women's bathroom.

Rabe Park – Vehicle tracks in the park about a week ago, might have been from a city vehicle driving in park when it was too wet

Fogerty Park – One of the lights (northeast corner) is on all the time, the eastern side of path has a down tree, two low spots of path is accumulating water

Greensfelder – The big tree that John reported as an issue last month has been addressed. The parking lot is a mess and per Booke, the city is fixing their portion of the parking lot.

Heman Park – James sent a note about baseball fields that needed addressing before the seasons and it seems they have been addressed

Adams Park – No big trees down there, it looks good. One tree at far end of park has some dead limbs towards the bottom that John requested to be trimmed

Dog Park – where the plastic pools are there is a ditch that water pools in, could it be flattened

Flynn Park – looks great, there was a couch in the middle of the field a week or so ago, but it has been removed

Lewis Park – 2 fountains are broken, need mulch, slide has a crack on it, limbs down from storm last Friday, water issues/flooding of neighbor's house

Mooney Park – looks great

Shelly Welsch Park – looks great

## **I. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1) **Annual Report**– None
- 2) **Rules & Regulations** – None
- 3) **Budget** – None

## **J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **K. NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Tire Grant for pour in place playground at Metcalfe Park - Please let me know your thoughts on the opportunity for the city to obtain a possible \$75,000 no-match grant. The deadline is June 15, 2025. – planning to do crushed rock and then put the crushed tire over. John made a motion to approve applying for the grant and Josh seconded, all in favor.
- 2) Block Party Packages – Looking to implement a fee for block party packages. The staff looked at the fees for renting a pavilion as the block party is essentially a portable pavilion. Staff is proposing a fee of \$50/block party and a deposit of \$250. The staff is wanting to no longer provide benches at block parties. Lisa expressed a concern that the city didn't and hasn't asked individuals to take the benches and put them into a yard/out of sight. The staff suggested tabling the topic so they can do some more research on the topic.
- 3) Farmers Market
  - a. Establish Rental Fee - The first item to be considered is establishing a rental fee for use of the parking lot and green space at Centennial Commons. Staff is recommending the fee be set to mirror the rental fees for use of the picnic pavilions at our parks. John made a motion to approve the follow the recommendation from staff, Amy seconded and James in favor. The recommendation was approved, with 3 in favor and 2 opposed.
  - b. Farmers Market Request for Fee Waiver – The second item is the Farmers Market's request to waive rental fees for their organization. Staff is recommending that the request to waive the fees be denied. John commented that while this is a non-profit, the farmers are for profit so it would be appropriate to charge a fee. Lisa expressed concern that this seems like a bait and switch, the city suggested the move and now are suddenly trying to charge the market for the use of space. Amy inquired about repeat usage of space and if a discount is ever applied and Lynda indicated that discounts for multiple usage doesn't exist. Steve McMahon expressed a concern that the Parks Department probably needs to establish a policy for fee waivers. Deborah Henderson spoke to the Commission about how it would impact the non-profit if they had to pay the rental fee. Deb indicated that they could afford to pay the city \$200/month. The Midwest Association of Farmers Markets has already used their reserve to pay for the space they used over the winter and they have already established contracts with the

farmers/vendors so they couldn't charge the farmers to attend the market. Amy made a motion to have the farmers market pay \$200/month, when the funding from EDRST becomes available on July 1<sup>st</sup> the fee can be raised to \$100/use under the assumption the funder will cover the increased cost, if the funder won't increase the funding then the fee will stay at \$200/month until the end of this market season.

- 4) Newest proposed City Budget – Todd doesn't have the budget with him tonight for the meeting. The proposed budget is on the website for viewing. The budget will be approved by City Council on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, if there are comments on the budget, they should be communicated to the Council as the staff is done making changes to the budget.

## **L. COMMISSION COMMENTS**

## **M. ADJOURNMENT**

Motioned to adjourned was Lisa and John seconded at 8:04.