



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

**Tuesday, November 18, 2025
6:30 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by James Wilke at 6:31.

B. ROLL CALL

In attendance: Commission President James Wilke, Commission Members Amy Gascon, Josh Winstral, John Solodar, Lisa Hummel, Angel Simmons, Matt Hayden. 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 Kruschke, Deputy City Manager – Development Brooke Sharp, Councilman Steve McManon.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

John motioned, Josh seconded and all were in favor.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. October 21, 2025 – Lisa motioned to approve, John seconded and all were in favor.

E. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

F. DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jim Kruschke reviewed the department report that was included with the meeting materials. Lynda provided an update on upcoming recreation events.

G. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

Pershing paving project is underway. Steve has asked for an update from City Manager on hiring of Parks Department Director.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Annual Report – Lisa Hummel, Amy Gascon, Matt Hayden – Will share a draft of the updated park priorities at the January commission meeting.
2. Rules & Regulations – Josh Winstral, James Wilke, Angel Simmons – no update
3. Budget – John Solodar, Amy Gascon – committee will meet once the budget process has begun.

I. PARKS REPORTS



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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 – no current concerns
6. Greensfelder Park – John Solodar – no current concerns
7. Joseph Adams Park – John Solodar – no current concerns
8. Ruth Park Golf Course – John Solodar – no current concerns
9. Millar Park – Lisa Hummel – Deep erosion along the side of the path that goes up to the playground and the QR code at the park that is supposed to link to a website about the park just redirects you to the city website and not anything on the park
10. Rabe Park – Lisa Hummel – Playground is still under construction. Looks great.
11. Ruth Park Woods – Lisa Hummel – Huge tree has fallen over the River Des Peres, it needs to be removed or it will become a flooding issue. There is an old rusty car in the woods.
12. Lewis Park – Amy Gascon – stones around the pond needs to be replaced
13. Shelly Welsch Park – Angel Simmons – no current concerns
14. Mooney Park – Amy Gascon - no current concerns
15. Ackert Park/ Greenway South – James Wilke – no current concerns
16. Heman Park – James Wilke – no current concerns
17. Mona Trail – James Wilke – no current concerns uprooted
18. Centennial Commons – Matt Hayden
19. Heman Park Pool – Matt Hayden
20. Community Center – Angel Simmons
21. Eastgate Park – Angel Simmons – no current concerns
22. Kaufman Park – Lisa Hummel – no current concerns

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Golf Course Driving Range – project/schedule update – Navigate issued a RFQ for site design and engineering service for the driving range.
2. Heman Park Improvement – parking lot barriers options –Staff is still doing research on the cost of the options for the parking lot barriers and plan to include this in the FY27 budget (July 2026 - June 2027)

K. NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and Discussion of Farmers Market/Centennial Commons use agreement – earlier in 2025 the Parks Commission approved for the use of Centennial Commons parking lot, this was a temporary agreement, and it expires on November 30th. Deb Henderson spoke about rules that are park/pavilion rules



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that are being applied to the Farmers Market as the city was asking them to comply with these rules as renting the parking lot was being equated to a pavilion rental. The issues Deb has with the rules are: 1. No animals at the market. They are requesting to host a petting zoo at the market, a few times a year. 2. Food trucks – they would like an existing vendor that is looking to come with the farmers market, the Farmers Market generally doesn't want the food trucks. 3. Concerns about paying for using the parking lot when it rains and it has to be canceled. Josh made a motion to move forward with the contract with a variance to allow for a petting zoo and a waiver for fees if the market is canceled due to weather, seconded by Lisa, all in favor

2. Storybook/Ready Readers Program – Update, Review, and Recommendation of Park Location(s) – U City has had temporary Storybook Walks in the past. Ready Reader is currently looking to add permanent Storybook Walk into a U City Park, with the preference being adding the Storybook Walk into Forgerty Park. Ready Readers updates the stories in the Storybook Walk quarterly and they are responsible for the maintenance of the Storybook Walk. John made a motion to approve the installation of a Storybook Walk in Fogerty Park with the potential of adding a little lending library to the walk, and Josh seconded, all were in favor.

L. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Amy thanked Lynda for working with the school district on soccer fields for the fall and shared that the school district has approximately 400 children interested in basketball for the winter.

- M. ADJOURNMENT** – motioned to adjourn by John at 7:40 and seconded by Lisa, all were in favor.