

Meeting Minutes
Parks and Recreation Board
January 6, 2026, at 9:00 AM

Helmerich Center for American Research | 1400 N Gilcrease Museum Rd | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127

Attendees:

MEMBERS		
NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
SAVAGE	X	
MEINDERS BURKETT		X
MILLER	X	
REESE-TIPTON	X	
FERNANDEZ		X
TOTALS	3	2

- I. Chairperson Savage called the meeting to order at 9:31AM.

- II. Savage asked for review and approval of December 9, 2025, PRB minutes. No corrections or revisions were requested.

NAME	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAINING	NOT PRESENT
SAVAGE	X			
MEINDERS-BURKETT				X
MILLER	X			
REESE-TIPTON	X			
FERNANDEZ				X
TOTALS	3			2

Motion carried.

III. REPORTS

- a. Parks, Culture and Recreation Department Report – Anna America

America noted that Mark Weston from City Security will be presenting the Park Security Update first due to time constraints. America noted that we have increased patrols at our parks and worked to identify problem areas.

b. Park Security Update – Mark Weston

Weston noted that there is 24/7 security for City parks. Weston noted that there are a lot of unhoused individuals and abandoned vehicles residing at the parks.

Weston noted his team also patrols construction areas for new playgrounds, facilities, etc. Weston noted the increased vandalism at Mohawk Sports Complex that has taken place recently.

Weston noted that there were 439 alarms incidents in the past calendar year. Weston noted that most of these are false alarms set off by power failures, etc.

Weston noted the following parks as having a high number of incident reports:

- McClure
- Park
- Mohawk Park
- Skate Park North
- Woodward Park
- Complex
- Hicks
- Reed
- Carl Smith
- Mohawk Soccer

America asked about Weston's approach regarding unhoused individuals seeking shelter or causing issues in parks. Weston noted that his team assesses the damage (if any) and reports it. From here, the team would contact outreach. If the situation is dangerous, they would ask TPD to assist in moving the unhoused individual out of the area.

America noted that pool staff members are very young and that there is a security guard present at every pool during the hours they are open. Weston noted that Mohawk Park would close at 6:00pm for the time being. Weston noted that his team will run weekend security in that park year-round.

America noted that Weston's group sends out Incident Reports to Parks Staff to keep them informed. America noted that there is currently a poaching case that is being investigated. Weston's team had to call in the game warden for this incident.

Savage noted that the parks that were named have a lot of neighborhoods around them. Savage asked if Weston's team has tried to get in contact with the neighborhood associations to keep an eye on the parks. Weston noted that they do not currently work with any neighborhood associations directly but many citizens around those areas have the direct city security number and will call security instead of TPD.

America noted that there were two vandalism reports at the construction site for Bales Playground. America noted that the department will be in contact with the neighborhoods around the parks to get ideas and feedback. America noted there were many kids at the playground on Friday playing on the construction site which shows the neighborhood really needed / wanted a playground there.

Weston noted that the City Security phone number is 918-596-9100.

Questions were welcomed.

a. Parks, Culture and Recreation Department Report – Anna America (CONTINUED)

America continued the Parks, Culture and Recreation Department Report. America discussed the two new Park Manager II positions which manage sections of recreation. America noted that 2025 was a big year for Capital Planning and Improvements.

America noted that the department has been trialing Placer AI in parks where improvements are being made in order to track attendance increases. America asked the Board Secretary to send the Placer AI proposal to the Board members.

Reese-Tipton asked how Placer AI knows how many people are attending the parks. Deputy Director Stacie Martin noted that it is based on cellphone data.

America noted that there are five major projects that are in construction for 2026. America noted that there is a lot of water seeping into the construction area at Woodward Park.

America noted the continued electric theft taking place at parks and facilities. America noted that the department has been converting to solar lights wherever possible. America noted there is an opportunity to work with PSO that would allow PSO to install and maintain the lights in parks. America stated that adding additional lighting in parks would increase safety.

America noted partnering with private organizations that would contribute to pool management. Savage noted that this would be similar to the golf course management. America noted this group would ideally hire, manage, and train the lifeguards.

Questions were welcomed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

[NOTE: "New business" is restricted to any matter not known about or which could not have been reasonably foreseen prior to the time of posting. *Oklahoma Open Meeting Act*, 25 O.S.2001, §311(9)]

No new business.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Aaron Griffith noted the City's initiative to get more neighborhoods involved in security. Griffith suggested that the City take a more active role at the neighborhood academies as well as looking at the Neighborhood Index. Griffith noted it would be helpful to include data in the Neighborhood Index for graffiti cleanup.

Griffith noted, regarding the 320 graffiti incidents, the City of Seattle files civil litigations against people who are serial graffiti offenders. Griffith asked that the City look into what Seattle is doing and make the person who was just arrested in Tulsa into an example. Griffith noted this should be for prolific offenders; not teenagers who are making poor choices.

Griffith noted privacy concerns with cell phone data being tracked and would like the department to look further into Placer AI. Griffith noted that if Placer AI can drill further into data to view people's information, further discussions should be had.

Griffith noted the poaching at Parks. Griffith stated that he is a Muscogee Nation citizen and, when you look up the City's Facts and Questions about foraging at public parks it states you can receive a \$500 fine to a 90 day jail punishment. Griffith noted that this seems like an extreme punishment especially for people who are stripping leaves from a tree for tea. Griffith asked if the City of Tulsa has the authority to prosecute against foraging from parks if you are a tribal citizen.

Griffith stated he is requesting policy review for foraging at public parks. Griffith asked if the City requires fishing licenses at public parks. Griffith noted that parks should be protected but allow foraging in a sustainable fashion. Griffith stated a permitting process may be a good way to regulate foraging.

Griffith noted the renaming Midland Valley Trail to the Tuckabache Trail. Griffith stated that he liked the idea of renaming the trail but stated that there are 11 other allottees not being recognized. Griffith stated a more appropriate name for the trail would be Locv Pokv Trail to honor the Tribal town. Griffith also asked that the City put the trail's official name in the proper tribal spelling. Griffith noted another name for the trail could be the Tvlse Trail.

Comment concluded after five minutes.

VI. Next Meeting –February 3, 2026, at the Whiteside Community Center – 4009 S Pittsburg Ave., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135.

VII. Adjournment at 10:05AM