

# Meeting Minutes

## Parks and Recreation Board

### May 5, 2026, at 9:00 AM

Oxley Nature Center | 6700 Mohawk Blvd. | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74115

Attendees:

MEMBERS		
NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
SAVAGE	X	
MEINDERS BURKETT	X	
MILLER	X	
REESE-TIPTON	X	
FERNANDEZ (TERM ENDED 5/1/26)		X
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>

- I. Chairperson Savage called the meeting to order at 9:15AM.
- II. Savage asked for the review and approval of April 14, 2026, 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
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>1</b>

Motion carried.

### III. REPORTS

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

Anna America noted that the department is still looking for Lifeguards and have nearly filled the Day Camp Counselor positions for Summer Camp.

America noted that one issue that has come up during hiring for Aquatics is that there are many kids who have not learned to swim.

America noted that this will be the first pool season in a decade that all pools will be opened at the same time. America noted that splashpads are being opened and pools are being filled up.

America noted that the groundbreaking for Jane A. Malone Community Center and Chamberlain Park. America noted that speakers from GKFF gave moving speeches. America noted that the bulk of the funding was privately raised. America noted that GKFF took a lot of initiative on fundraising on the department's behalf.

America noted the Jane A. Malone herself was in attendance. Savage noted that Chamberlain and Berry have so much history in this community and have needed this type of investment and commitment to its citizens.

America noted that when she first became Parks Director, she looked at some of the facilities and took note of how awful Berry and Chamberlain looked. America noted that the former Chamberlain Community Center was run off \$40,000 a year from the City.

America noted that the stories at the groundbreaking really showcased the importance of the park and community center. Savage noted that the Helmerich Foundation built a walking trail over 30 years ago at Chamberlain Park and she appreciates the continued investment in our communities.

America noted that the bids on Johnson Park came in under bid. America noted that the contract process should be done soon and will hopefully break ground towards the end of the summer.

America noted that they are ending the design phase on Ben Hill.

America noted the volunteer, grant, and donation report created by Anna Moore. America noted that there was a great volunteer event at Cyrus Avery Plaza where 90 volunteers came out and cleaned up the plaza. America noted that large amounts of graffiti and trash were cleaned up from the area in preparation for the Centennial Celebration.

America noted that the Emerald Ash Borer has been identified in Broken Arrow. America noted that, for more than a decade, the City has been preparing for the Emerald Ash Borer and has worked to plan and preserve as many Ash trees as possible.

America noted that the partnership with Up With Trees has planted over 850 trees since mid-October.

America noted her appreciation of Walt Kosty and his volunteer efforts. America noted her appreciation for James Taylor with his community composting efforts at Jane A. Malone Center. America noted that she would like to see our community gardens expanding across the City. America noted they are labor and resource intensive so we try to find great people who can assist us with these projects.

Miller asked about the May the Fourth Nerf Gun at Owen Park. Dustin Jagers noted that they bring their own Nerf Guns and create barricades. Miller noted that he appreciates the innovative programming in the recreation centers.

America noted that the number one thing Parks can offer in our spaces is a way to build community.

Savage noted that the number of kids who do not know how to swim is a real safety issue. America noted that the young man who drowned at the wave pool was unable to swim. America noted that the department is offering free swimming lessons and partnering with the YWCA. America noted that most of these are geared towards younger kids, so the department is working on targeting teenagers.

Questions were welcomed.

**IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION**

a. Election of Chair – Board

The Board affirmed the election of the Chair as Susan Savage and Vice Chair as Terersa Meinders Burkett that occurred at the Gilcrease Museum Board of Trustees meeting.

**V. 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.

VI. **Next Meeting** – The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park and Recreation Board will take place on June 9, 2026, at Mohawk Park Golf Course – 5223 E 41<sup>st</sup> Street N., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74115.

VII. Adjournment at 9:38 AM.