

Meeting Minutes
Parks and Recreation Board
February 4, 2025, at 9:00AM

Jane A. Malone Community Center | 4940 N Frankfort Ave. | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74126

Attendees:

MEMBERS		
<i>Name</i>	<i>PRESENT</i>	<i>ABSENT</i>
Meinders Burkett	X	
Savage	X	
Miller	X	
Reese-Tipton	X	
Fernandez		X

OTHER		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
Destinee Love	COT	dlove@cityoftulsa.org
Nicole Brannon	COT	nbrannon@cityoftulsa.org
Claire Harkness	Oxley Nature Center	claireharkness56@gmail.com
Tarah Moutray	COT	Tmoutray@cityoftulsa.org
Geoffrey Braga	COT	gbraga@cityoftulsa.org
Marci Rose	COT	marcirose@cityoftulsa.org
Anna Moore	COT	N/A
Rabon Martin	COT	rabonmartin@cityoftulsa.org
Anna America	COT	annaamerica@cityoftulsa.org
Stacie Martin	COT	smartin@cityoftulsa.org
Ellen Ray	COT	eray@cityoftulsa.org
Rhonda Soules	COT	rsoules@cityoftulsa.org
Ellen Averill	Tulsa Zoo	N/A
Caroline Guerra Wolf	COT	cguerrawolf@cityoftulsa.org
Brian Bovaird	Outdoor Classroom	Brian.b@octulsa.org
CJ Maclin	COT	cmaclin@cityoftulsa.org
Katherine Wilczek	Cyntergy	kwilczek@cyntergy.com
Richard Zimmerman	Artist	richardzim@gmail.com
Bob Sober	UCAP	N/A

- I. Chairperson Meinders Burkett called the meeting to order at 9:03AM.
- II. Meinders Burkett asked for review and approval of December 3, 2025, PRB minutes. No corrections or revisions were requested. Reese-Tipton moved to approve the minutes; Savage seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Reports

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

Director America noted the increase in wire theft with our Park lighting. Our maintenance crews have started replacing our lights with solar lights, specifically in the Osage Trail, but lighting was knocked down with a truck to retrieve the copper wiring.

Savage asked if Parks has been partnering with Tulsa Police Department to deter or investigate the wire thefts. Director America noted that the department is working with Terry Ball in Public Works to identify a pattern before contacting law enforcement. Reese-Tipton asked if there is insurance on the lighting- Savage noted that the City is self-insured.

Director America noted that we have made changes to increase the integrity of the poles, but people are still coming through and vandalizing them.

Meinders Burkett noted that the department should enlist citizen watch groups.

Director America noted the Chamberlain Pool is on schedule to be opened this summer. Also noted that the plans for the new Jane A. Malone Community Center are at 65% completion. This park will also receive new trails, covered basketball, and a kitchen.

Director America noted the progress on Fred Johnson Park. We are partnering with Stormwater to address stormwater retention. This park will also include a dog park.

Director America noted the Ben Hill Park meeting on February 3, 2025.

Budget is underway. Director America noted the return on investment with preventative maintenance which has allowed the department to replace HVAC units across park facilities. With this change, it allows the department to shift resources to additional preventative maintenance efforts.

Director America noted that the administrative team has been going through all utility bills to identify spikes and areas without usage. Director America noted a report will be presented to the Board that shows the savings that this has produced in the department.

Questions were welcomed.

b. Urban Forestry Update – Geoffrey Braga

Geoffrey Braga noted the Forestry division originally was comprised of three people. The division hopes to add a third full-time team member as well as a seasonal employee. This team currently manages 15,000 trees with a three-person crew (2003-2007 numbers).

General Maintenance – elevate the trees for better visualization. Removing hanging limbs. Cleaned up the FEMA stumps from the Father’s Day storm. Removing tree stakes from newly planted trees. Found beaver activities at Carl Smith. A contracted crew is working on the maintenance trail and cleaning up the trees out there. Also working on canopy clearance.

Completed the Woodward Park Azelia project. Reapplied for the Tree City USA renewal. Looking at getting a growth award for the City of Tulsa.

Currently working on Capital Improvement Projects at parks like Berry to improve tree preservation. Upcoming trainings with other departments – this will include tree hazard training for code enforcement.

Tree planting at Up With Trees. Currently, we have planted 600 trees in 12 parks since October 2024. Trying to get to 1,000 by the end of the planting season. The funding is from Federal Inflation Reduction Act. Also supports the maintenance of these trees.

Questions were welcomed.

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

a. *Plaza of the Americas Sculpture – Bob Sober

Sober noted that he is seeking approval from the Park and Recreation Board for a temporary sculpture at the Plaza of the Americas. Installation would take place in Spring 2025. The sculpture would be placed here for upwards of a year.

With Sober is Katherine Wilczek from Cynergy, Ellen Ray with the City’s Department of City Experience, and the artist Richard Zimmerman. Sober noted that the project does not cost the City anything – setup and teardown is provided.

Zimmerman moved here six years ago for the Tulsa Artist Fellowship.

Watercolor rendering is available on the first page of the presentation. Initial proposal is to be installed for one year, but could be a longer amount of time. Zimmerman described the materials and design of the sculpture, available in the provided presentation.

Motion to approve Reese-Tipton, Savage seconded the motion.

Approved

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)]

VI. Public Comments – Gilcrease Gardens – Walt Kosty

Kosty noted that the First Garden of Gilcrease is 135 years old. In 1987, there was a Grounds Committee. Raised \$142,500, roughly \$400,000 in today's dollars. Kosty stated that his question is who is the gardener and how are the gardens and grounds being maintained. Kosty stated The University of Tulsa has an agreement with the City. However, he cannot find any documentation to show how much funding is allocated to care for these gardens and grounds. Kosty noted that, originally, there were 15 trees, five remain. Kosty spoke with the security guard who said that the sprinkler system was not kept, which could have contributed to the tree loss. Kosty asked who is in control of the money, how much is being allocated, and who is overseeing that. Kosty stated that he would like to be involved in the development of Stewart Park

VII. Next Meeting, March 4, 2025, at the Gilcrease Museum – 1400 N Gilcrease Museum Road, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127.

VIII. Adjournment at 10:19AM.