

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

Gilcrease Museum | 1400 N Gilcrease Museum Road | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127

Attendees:

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

OTHER		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
Anna Moore	COT	amoore@cityoftulsa.org
Destinee Love	COT	dlove@cityoftulsa.org
Tarah Moutray	COT	tmoutray@cityoftulsa.org
Rhonda Soules	COT	rsoules@cityoftulsa.org
Walt Kosty	N/A	N/A
Ellen Averill	COT	eaverill@cityoftulsa.org
Andy Fusco	Tulsa Garden Center	afusco@tulsagardencenter.org
Brian Bovaird	Outdoor Classroom	Brian.b@octulsa.org
Jason Boyd	COT	jboyd@cityoftulsa.org
Steven Lassman	COT	slassman@cityoftulsa.org
Dylan Siers	COT	dsiers@cityoftulsa.org
Dustin Jagers	COT	djagers@cityoftulsa.org
Geoffrey Braga	COT	gbraga@cityoftulsa.org
Mike Carder	COT	mcarder@cityoftulsa.org
Corey Seaton	COT	cseaton@cityoftulsa.org
Tim Thornton	COT	N/A
Emily Scott	Downtown Tulsa Partnership	emily@downtowntulsa.com
Tom Hoffmann	Oxley	tomhoffmannphd@gmail.com
Claire Harkness	Oxley	Claireharkness5b@gmail.com
Caroline Guerra Wolf	COT	N/A
Stacie Martin	COT	smartin@cityoftulsa.org
Anna America	COT	annaamerica@cityoftulsa.org
Maggie Regan	COT	mregan@cityoftulsa.org

- I. Chairperson Meinders Burkett called the meeting to order at 9:08AM.
- II. Meinders Burkett asked for review and approval of February 4, 2025, PRB minutes. No corrections or revisions were requested. Savage moved to approve the minutes; Fernandez seconded the motion. Minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Reports

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

Director America noted that Berry and Chamberlain projects are close to completion. At Johnson Park there will be a low-impact design for stormwater. Director America noted that there will be a dry creek where water will flow- the design should be wrapped up relatively soon.

Savage noted to looking into other organizations like Sustainable Tulsa, not necessarily in Tulsa, that would have an interest in sustainability. Director America noted that the department will look into creating a relationship with the organization.

Director America noted Woodward Park's large stormwater pipe as well as pond construction should be underway shortly.

Director America noted that Swan Lake fence replaced with leftover funding from the project. Also noted the Bike Club headquarters construction is underway.

Director America noted that discussions will be held with Gilcrease Museum to discuss trails within the coming weeks.

Director America noted Park buildings being closed for Snow and Ice two weeks ago. Director America also noted the Conservatory pipe break at Woodward Park. Many plants were lost, and an alarm failed to alert.

Two new inclusive playgrounds with the Bernstein Foundation will be announced soon. Same playground design that worked on Hope Playground.

Currently working to expand afterschool programming at our community centers. Working with Tulsa Public School to work on specific programming.

Meinders Burkett asked about Coach Reed. Director America noted that Coach Reed's family will be taking over the programming.

Director America noted the commitment and dedication of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. This Committee has addressed the need for increase signage.

Golf Contract will be on the Mayor's Agenda shortly. Director America noted that there will be a Board meeting held at Paige Belcher where everyone can get out and see the improvements to the facility.

Savage asked for an update on the public comment from the last meeting from Mr. Walt Kosty. Director America noted that she spoke with Mr. Kosty after the last meeting where she connected him with the City's Urban Forester, Geoffrey Braga.

Savage requested an update on wire theft in park lighting. Director America noted that there has not been an increase, likely due to the poor weather we have been experiencing. Director America noted that the maintenance team is still working towards a permanent solution to reduce the rate of theft.

Savage asked for an update on Director America's new role. Director America is now also the Deputy City Administrator for Parks and Public Facilities in the Mayor's Administration. Deputy City Administrator America noted that Asset Management will now fall under her as well as Parks and the Department of City Experience's Design Studio.

Director America noted that the grant with Up With Trees to provide trees at Johnson Park has been frozen due to the federal grant freeze.

Questions were welcomed.

b. Oxley Nature Center Update – Maggie Regan

Maggie Regan presented the Oxley Nature Center Update. Regan noted the three primary ecosystems – Prairie, Forest, and Wetlands. Oxley hosted 1,871 students from Tulsa and the surrounding area, a significant increase from 2023.

Oxley assisted in a high school curriculum for a new year-long elective course "Ecoregions of Northeast Oklahoma" offered by Tulsa Public Schools.

Regan noted the success of the Artist Residency Program. Oxley has selected a new Artist Residency for 2025, local artist Matt Moffett. Regan noted that there were 26 applicants for the residency program.

Savage asked if the City Arts Commission is involved in the residency program. Regan noted she would look into the potential collaboration.

Regan noted the new "Naturalist in Residency" program. Oxley will be welcoming Kyle Thomas- an artist who articulates avian skeletons.

Regan noted that Oxley will be hosting an intern during the Summer of 2025 to create an inventory and collection at the Nature Center.

Regan noted that a private donor and ONCA have provided two track chairs for increased accessibility. All nine miles of trail should be accessible.

Meinders Burkett asked about the status of the dam. Regan noted that progress is being made, just slower than expected.

Questions were welcomed.

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

a. *Chapman Green Park Design – Emily Scott

Emily Scott presented the Chapman Green Park Design and Conceptual Plan. Scott noted that stakeholders have been involved in the entire process.

Downtown Tulsa Partnership has been holding the Downtown Tulsa Farmers Market as well as Movie Nights on the Green.

Scott noted a concrete ring around the Green to encourage use of the Green. Also have worked with Parks Maintenance crews on the fountain. The plan is to take out the fountain. Scott also noted furniture will be added to the area.

Scott noted \$1M from Public Realm TIF revenue to update the Park space. Currently, proposals are coming in at double this amount. Scott noted that there will be a designated dog relief area.

Meinders Burkett asked who the designer is on the project. Scott noted the designer is PDG (Planning Design Group).

Motion to approve Savage, Fernandez 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)]

Fernandez noted he will be the Chairman of the Business and Innovation Committee and will be requesting that the Annual Board Meeting will be held in Tulsa.

VI. Public Comments – None

VII. Next Meeting, April 1, 2025, at 9:00 AM – Henthorne Park (Clark Youth Theatre) – 4825 S Quaker Ave., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74105.

VIII. Adjournment at 10:07AM.