

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Parks and Recreation Board**  
**May 6, 2025, at 9:00 AM**

Page Belcher Golf Course | 6666 S Union Ave | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74132

Attendees:

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

| OTHER                |                     |  |
|----------------------|---------------------|--|
| <i>Name</i>          | <i>Organization</i> | <i>Email Address</i>   |
| Destinee Love        | COT                 | <a href="mailto:dlove@cityoftulsa.org">dlove@cityoftulsa.org</a>                 |
| Dustin Jagers        | COT                 | <a href="mailto:djagers@cityoftulsa.org">djagers@cityoftulsa.org</a>             |
| Tarah Moutray        | COT                 | <a href="mailto:tmoutray@cityoftulsa.org">tmoutray@cityoftulsa.org</a>           |
| C.J. Maclin          | COT                 | <a href="mailto:cmaclin@cityoftulsa.org">cmaclin@cityoftulsa.org</a>             |
| Claire Harkness      | Oxley Nature Center | <a href="mailto:claire.harkness5b@gmail.com">claire.harkness5b@gmail.com</a>     |
| Marsha Wiseman       | Mayor's Office      | <a href="mailto:mwiseman@cityoftulsa.org">mwiseman@cityoftulsa.org</a>           |
| Stacie Martin        | COT                 | <a href="mailto:smartin@cityoftulsa.org">smartin@cityoftulsa.org</a>             |
| Anna America         | COT                 | <a href="mailto:annaamerica@cityoftulsa.org">annaamerica@cityoftulsa.org</a>     |
| Caroline Guerra Wolf | COT                 | <a href="mailto:cguerrawolf@cityoftulsa.org">cguerrawolf@cityoftulsa.org</a>     |
| Mary Womble          | COT                 | <a href="mailto:mwomble@cityoftulsa.org">mwomble@cityoftulsa.org</a>             |
| Steve Lassman        | COT                 | <a href="mailto:slassman@cityoftulsa.org">slassman@cityoftulsa.org</a>           |
| Jason Boyd           | COT                 | <a href="mailto:jboyd@cityoftulsa.org">jboyd@cityoftulsa.org</a>                 |
| Tim Thornton         | COT                 | <a href="mailto:timthornton@cityoftulsa.org">timthornton@cityoftulsa.org</a>     |
| Andy Fusco           | Tulsa Garden Center | <a href="mailto:afusco@tulsagardencenters.org">afusco@tulsagardencenters.org</a> |
| Ellen Averill        | Tulsa Zoo           | <a href="mailto:eaverill@tulsazoo.org">eaverill@tulsazoo.org</a>                 |
| Dylan Siers          | COT                 | <a href="mailto:dsiers@cityoftulsa.org">dsiers@cityoftulsa.org</a>               |
| Maggie Regan         | COT                 | <a href="mailto:mregan@cityoftulsa.org">mregan@cityoftulsa.org</a>               |
| Anna Moore           | COT                 | <a href="mailto:amoore@cityoftulsa.org">amoore@cityoftulsa.org</a>               |

- I. Chairperson Meinders Burkett called the meeting to order at 9:20AM.
- II. Meinders Burkett asked for review and approval of April 1, 2025, PRB minutes. No corrections or revisions were requested. Reese-Tipton moved to approve the minutes; Savage seconded the motion.

### III. Reports

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

Director America noted that the Mayor submitted the FY26 Budget on Wednesday. The City is expecting revenue to remain flat this year. Most City departments were asked to cut 4% to accommodate for the revenue. America noted the Department proposed cuts to seasonal positions that were not fully utilized, reducing mowing schedules, and two Mechanical Journeyman positions that were unfilled. America noted that these positions became obsolete after the preventative maintenance that has been done over the past few years.

America noted that there are a lot of employees in the Parks Department that require certifications for their positions. America noted that the Department created a non-mandatory study hall for all Parks employees. This has allowed Parks staff to have a dedicated hour every week to work towards progressions and proficiencies.

America noted that the recreation team has partnered with Mayfest to operate the Kids Zone. Oxley Nature Center partnered with the Tulsa Opera to provide an interesting trail experience. Spring Fest at the Garden Center and multiple plant sales have geared the department up for Spring/Summer. America noted that many plants from Woodward were lost due to freezes over the winter.

America also noted that communications has created a report for the Board that includes metrics for our social media posts and upcoming events.

America noted that the McClure Park pool project has begun putting in the turf. The three largest projects are at Ben Hill Park, Dream Keepers Park, and Johnson Park.

America noted the importance of the ADA Committee. America noted that Hunter Park and Woodward Park are being renovated to include adult changing tables.

America noted that one of the members of the ADA Committee has assisted in the accessibility of Pratt Park.

Savage noted companies are starting to refer to wheelchairs and “transport chairs”.

Questions were welcomed.

#### b. Tulsa Golf Update – Nick Sidorakis and Randy Heckenkemper

Nick Sidorakis verbally presented the Tulsa Golf Update. Sidorakis noted that his background is hospitality. Sidorakis noted that his focus is operations and Randy Heckenkemper, Golf Course Architect, runs the course and works with the maintenance groups. Sidorakis ran and operated the Southern Hills Country Club for 29 years before retiring and coming to Page Belcher and Mohawk Golf Courses. Sidorakis noted that this

is what makes Sidorakis and Heckenkemper different- they do this because they want to, not because they have to. The goal is to elevate local golf in the City of Tulsa.

Sidorakis stated that his goal is three years to elevate these courses. Sidorakis noted the importance of creating a culture at these courses. Sidorakis noted he is present at both courses nearly every day to ensure that the proper oversight is given to both sites. Sidorakis noted that there will be a town hall at Page Belcher today, May 6, 2025, and a separate one will be held at Mohawk Golf Course.

Sidorakis noted that there were 65,000 rounds played last year. Sidorakis noted that in 2025 he plans to have 75-80,000 rounds and 90,000 rounds in 2026.

Sidorakis noted that they have implemented a \$500,000 pump station at Mohawk Park. They are also implementing a \$100,000 sod program at Mohawk. \$125,000 has been invested into used Golf Course equipment from Southern Hills Country Club.

Sidorakis noted that Tim Thornton, Tarah Moutray, and Jason Boyd have been tremendous in assisting with facility needs throughout the courses.

Savage asked for an estimate of the increased interest in Golf throughout the City. Sidorakis noted that the off course/non-green course has reopened which will increase interest. Sidorakis also noted that COVID increased interest in gold tremendously. Sidorakis noted the importance of introducing women and children into the game of golf. Sidorakis noted that there was no programming and no golf professionals before they took over the courses. There are now four golf professionals, and they are implementing programming for the community.

America noted the First Tee Program that is completely free for children. Sidorakis noted that he co-founded this program in 1999. The program is for children 7-18 years old. This program must raise \$600,000 per year in order to fund this program. There was a fund raiser held at Cedar Ridge on May 5, 2025, which raised \$35,000 net for the program.

America noted that the goal is to make the courses as accessible as possible to every Tulsan.

Reese-Tipton asked if Sidorakis will be apart of the Oklahoma Golf Trails. Sidorakis said that he has not received much information. Sidorakis noted that Mohawk is \$10 to walk and play golf and \$25 to use a cart Monday through Friday. Sidorakis noted this is the lowest rate in Oklahoma.

Questions were welcomed.

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

##### a. Lease and Improvements of Hawthorne Park – Crossover Community Impact

Justin Pickard and Philip Abode from Crossover Community Impact presented the Lease and Improvements of Hawthorne Park. Presenters noted that the lease of Hawthorne Park has lapsed. Presenters requested approval of improvements such as a turf football/soccer field, track, and concessions/restrooms/locker rooms, and a fit lot/pavilions. These areas would be fenced off to prevent loose dogs from entering. Presenters would raise the money to create the improvements and a lease to utilize the space for youth sports.

Savage asked if there is an MOU with Hawthorne Elementary School. Presenters and America noted that the goal is to partner with Tulsa Public Schools in the future.

America clarified that this would be approval of the concept of partnership between the City of Tulsa, including the Legal Department, and Crossover Community Impact to move forward with application for the TSET Grant.

Meinders Burkett asked if there will be additional lighting with improvements. Presenters noted that they will be providing lighting with the requested improvements.

Savage requested that the presenters meet with Tulsa Animal Services to provide assistance in the area for loose dogs.

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

Approved

##### b. Appointment of Jay Ross to serve on the Garden Center

Meinders Burkett clarified that there is a vacant Park Board appointment position on the Garden Center Board.

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

Approved

##### c. Board Member Reports

No reports were given due to time constraints.

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)]

Reese-Tipton asked that someone from the City be in touch with Walt Kosty regarding his item on the Gilcrease Board agenda.

VI. Public Comments – None

VII. Next Meeting – May 13, 2025, location and time to be determined.

VIII. Adjournment at 10:21AM.