

Meeting Minutes
Parks and Recreation Board
July 1, 2025, at 9:00 AM

Lacy Community Center | 2134 N Madison Place | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106

Attendees:

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

- I. Chairperson Meinders Burkett called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM.
- II. Meinders Burkett asked for review and approval of June 3, 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 Anna America presented the Department Report. America noted the difficulty keeping up with the mowing cycles due to weather constraints. America noted the Summer Camps that are taking place at the Community Centers.

America noted the Rec and Roll van that is taking activities to places that are underserved in terms of recreational activities.

America noted the difficulty the department is having keeping up with Aquatics. America noted the Chamberlain Pool Opening on Thursday. America noted Mayor Nichols will be jumping into the pool for the grand opening.

Savage noted she met Jane A Malone at a community meeting and noted Malone’s excitement around the pool opening. America n

Reese-Tipton asked if the City has tried to certify lifeguards in the winter so they are ready for the summer. America noted that the department will take that into consideration for the next pool season. America noted that the Human Resources department had turnover as well which made the hiring process more drawn out than expected.

America noted there is always a City Security Guard at the pools when they are open. America noted we are the last public pools Tulsa- noting the County has closed their public pools.

America noted that there has been an increase in copper theft this summer, specifically noting the recent theft at Hicks Park. America noted that in some places the wire does not get replaced due to the increased theft in certain areas.

America noted that Oxley Nature Center has been having a great summer, noting the artist in residency, Matt Moffett. America noted that Oxley has extended its hours on Thursdays during the summer months.

America noted the Horticulture Staff are moving into the Carriage House at the Garden Center in Woodward Park. This move was approved by the Garden Center Board and will increase maintenance in that area.

Meinders Burkett asked if the department will eventually move into the Mansion at Woodward Park. America noted that there were talks but nothing has been approved or agreed upon. There are no current plans to move into the Mansion.

Meinders Burkett asked if there has been a new agreement with the Garden Center. America noted that will come with this move.

Meinders Burkett reminded the Board that the Park and Recreation Board nominates members of the Garden Center Board.

America noted the Capital Improvement Projects are moving along. Construction on Woodward Park has finally begun – currently at 5% completed on Construction.

America noted a consultant has been selected for the project at Dream Keepers Park.

America noted that Ben Hill will begin its community engagement.

America noted the budget was approved by the City Council. America noted that the department originally reduced mowing to compensate for the 4% budget cuts. America noted the Council reallocated the mowing funds as a part of the official budget.

Questions were welcomed.

b. Accessibility Update – Dylan Siers

Dylan Siers presented the Tulsa Parks Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Group Accomplishments. Siers noted the upgrades to Community Centers, the widening of gates at sports courts, upgrades to the restrooms at Hicks Community Center which includes an adult changing table, Woodward and Helmerich Park restrooms have been brought to ADA standards.

Siers noted Pratt Park ADA updates, including an accessible pathway, and Oxley Nature Center received an all-terrain track chair, so wheelchair users are able to utilize the trail system at Oxley.

Siers noted that that wheelchair software has been introduced to Bales Park and two new inclusive playgrounds are currently under construction.

Siers noted that City of Tulsa staff have completed a total of 25 hours of ADA and inclusion-focused training. Siers also noted the City of Tulsa is currently working on an ADA Guide for the Website.

Savage noted that Hope Playground was Irene Burnstein's dream. Savage noted how happy Irene is with the playground.

Questions were welcomed.

IV. ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

a. Election of Chair – Board

Miller nominated Susan Savage to be Chair. Reese-Tipton seconded.

Approved

b. Election of Vice Chair

Miller nominated Teresa Meinders Burkett to be Vice Chair. Reese-Tipton seconded the motion.

Approved

c. Board Member Reports

None.

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)]

None.

VI. Public Comments

Walt Kosty commented on Stuart Park. Kosty has spoken with Siers and has requested that the community be brought into the discussion regarding the Stuart Park Trail System. Kosty has also requested that the Trail System be cleaned up.

VII. Next Meeting – September 9, 2025, Gilcrease Museum.

VIII. Adjournment at 9:51AM.