

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Board

June 9, 2026, at 9:00 AM

Mohawk Park Golf Course | 5223 E 41st Street N | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74115

Attendees:

MEMBERS		
NAME	PRESENT	ABSENT
SAVAGE	X	
MEINDERS BURKETT	X	
MILLER		X
REESE	X	
TOTALS	3	1

- I. Chairperson Savage called the meeting to order at 10:10AM.
- II. Savage asked for the review and approval of May 5, 2026, PRB minutes. No corrections or revisions were requested.

NAME	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAINING	NOT PRESENT
SAVAGE	X			
MEINDERS-BURKETT	X			
MILLER				X
REESE	X			
TOTALS	3			1

Motion carried.

III. REPORTS

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

America noted that the department is in full summer swing right now. America noted that all pools and splashpads are open.

America noted the ongoing and growing partnership with the Tulsa Housing Authority. America noted that the department will be working with the Tulsa Housing Authority to collaborate on field trips with day camps.

America noted that mowing has been mostly unaffected by rain. America noted the maintenance work on Route 66 including the Route 66 themed playground at Tracy Park.

America noted the groundbreaking at Berry and Jane A. Malone Community Center.

America noted that we are entering the last stretch with the IOT2 funding on playgrounds and sports courts.

America noted that the majority of Councilors have expressed interest in allocating some of their funding towards parks/trails.

America noted that they are moving forward on the project to restore the wetlands at Oxley.

America noted they are working on stormwater-related projects in Parks. One project is dredging at Veteran's Park. America noted that the golf courses were closed 55 days last year due to flooding. America noted that most of Mohawk Golf Course is designated as a floodplain.

Questions were welcomed.

b. Golf Update – Randy Heckenkemper / Nick Sidorakis

Nick Sidorakis presented the Golf Update. Sidorakis noted that total revenue is projected at \$5.6M which is a \$1.7M increase from the last operators.

Sidorakis noted 122,000 thousand rounds projected this year, increase of 24,000 from the previous operators.

Sidorakis noted that the net income of the golf courses was \$101,000 with last operators and has reached over \$500,000 with the new leadership.

Sidorakis noted that, since April 1, 2026, over \$2M in Capital Improvements have been made to golf facilities.

Sidorakis noted that they have laid over 10 acres of sod. Sidorakis noted mohawk golf course was called the "dustbowl" because there was mostly dirt on the fairways.

Sidorakis noted that they are supposed to have the 25th Anniversary of First Tee this year.

Sidorakis noted morale improvement with employees at the golf courses.

Sidorakis noted that they have increased starting pay wages from \$10/hr to \$14/hr.

Sidoraks noted they have 14,000 golfers in their database, when they took over in 2025 there were 5,000.

Sidorakis noted that they have increased merchandise sales. Sidorakis noted that in every revenue area they have increased income by at least 25%.

Sidorakis noted the sewer project is impacting four holes. Sidorakis noted the course has been closed 38 days in the last month and a half due to flooding.

Sidorakis noted that a bridge on hole seven at Mohawk was washed out and was repaired for \$20,000.

Sidorakis noted that the goal is to completely renovate the Mohawk Park Golf Course.

Savage noted the great work of Sidorakis and his team.

America noted that the comments they have received from the public have been incredibly positive since Sidorakis's team took over. America noted they have worked to expand women and youth programming.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

a. Lacy Park Mural – Kennedy Dixon

Kennedy Dixon presented the Lacy Park Mural. Combination of community engagement and financial empowerment.

Dixon noted that the inform women, transform lives campaign partners with 48 cities. Dixon noted Tulsa is the only City in the United States to be apart of this specific cohort this year. Dixon noted that the campaign revolves around Women's Right to Information.

Dixon noted that the target audience is Tulsa women notably in North and West Tulsa.

Dixon noted that over 200 residents attended the Financial Neighborhood Resource Fair on May 7, 2026. Dixon noted that 50 free car seats were distributed and installed at this event.

Dixon noted they provide one-on-one financial counseling, legacy planning, and dedicated counselors that are available three days a week.

Savage noted she met virtually with Dixon for over an hour discussing the process, maintenance, funding, and timeline.

Dixon noted they are looking for the Board to approve the mural at Lacy Park. They will then go to Arts Commission and come back to the Board when an artist is selected.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Taylor asked where the policy that governs art within the Parks.

Savage asked for more clarification on the question.

Taylor asked for the state and municipal law that governs the Board's decisions.

Savage noted that Taylor is asking for a Park Policy and Procedure Manual which is different than a Board governing charter.

Taylor noted that he is unable to find the ordinances online.

Savage noted that this Board has the authority to make improvements to the parks.

Caroline Guerra Wolf noted that Municode has lists all City ordinances.

NAME	IN FAVOR	OPPOSED	ABSTAINING	NOT PRESENT
SAVAGE	X			
MEINDERS-BURKETT	X			
MILLER				X
REESE	X			
TOTALS	3			1

Motion carried.

V. Public Comments

- a. No Board approved policy manual and no timeline for adoption is unacceptable – James Taylor*

“Hello. Ms. Anna, thank you for going on record to express your appreciation about our labor and resource intensive work, it really is difficult.

I am here today regarding a fundamental governance issue affecting the Tulsa Parks and Recreation Board.

The authority of this Board does not come from the individuals seated at this table. It comes from law.

Under Oklahoma Statutes Title 11, Section 33-107, a public recreation board shall adopt rules and regulations and establish general policies for the conduct of its business and for the operation of public recreational activities and services. The Tulsa City Charter likewise assigns this Board governance responsibilities.

After preparing these remarks, I was provided a copy of the Tulsa Park and Recreation Board Rules and Regulations. The document appears to have been adopted in 1994 and last revised in 2006.

To me, that raises more questions than it answers.

If this is the Board's governing framework, why is it not readily available to the public? Why are policy amendments, public comment procedures, and other governing documents scattered across separate records requests, agendas, and websites? And what process exists to ensure these policies are regularly reviewed, updated, and approved?

The issue before us is no longer whether policies exist. The issue is whether they are being actively maintained, reviewed, updated, and made accessible to the public.

A governance framework should not require an Open Records request to understand. Citizens should be able to easily identify the rules governing this Board, the date those rules were adopted, and the date they were last reviewed.

Additionally, there appears to be inconsistency between the publicly available version of Board governing documents hosted on the City-affiliated website, including differing adoption dates and revision histories. The document, suspiciously easy to find online, says it was established in 1979, and reviewed and revised in 2017, but we were told by the director that it was never formally approved by the board or council, and yet is still on the internet attached to the cityoftulsa.org address. Miss America you said this document “overwhelmingly” dealt with non board issues, and yet I have been told by staff that this is the document that is currently being amended, and to be proposed to the board in pieces, to approve, eventually, so as to not overwhelm the board all at once. No timeline exists for this process.

In relation to this document, minutes from Sept 2025 board meeting report “Savage noted the charter change in 1988. Savage noted that in her years working on the charter change, this document was never presented. Burkett noted that during her time on the Board, this document had never been presented for approval.”

I respectfully request that the record reflect concerns regarding whether the Board's governance framework has been regularly reviewed and maintained consistent with its duties under state law and the City Charter. I also request that the Board publicly identify its current governing policies and the date each was last reviewed or approved. I also request both previously mentioned documents be attached to the minutes of this meeting.

Additionally, publicly available meeting minutes appear to show that Board member Shane Fernandez has attended only one of the last twelve meetings. This is not a personal matter. It is a governance matter.

The State of Oklahoma established a five-member board structure because active participation is necessary for oversight and accountability. A board cannot effectively fulfill its responsibilities when a seat is effectively absent for nearly an entire year. That's Functionally Nonexistent Board Syndrome, FNBS. The public deserves better than that.

I respectfully request that the record reflect concerns regarding attendance, participation, and the standards by which appointed members are expected to serve.

Finally, I want to emphasize that this is not simply about identifying problems. It is about recognizing an opportunity.

It's time to usher in a whole new era for Tulsa Parks, one defined by accessibility, accountability, transparency, and clear documentation.

More accessible meeting times, consistent meeting locations, publicly available policies, timely online publication of meeting minutes, stronger attendance standards, clear and transparent conflict-of-interest disclosure requirements, complete records, and meaningful public participation would strengthen this Board and strengthen public trust. Handling such issues wisely protects the public's interest and bolsters the public's confidence in their local government.

The Parks Department manages some of Tulsa's most valuable public assets. The public should be able to easily understand how decisions are made, who is making them, and what rules govern those decisions.

I hope this Board, the Mayor's Office, and the City Council seize this opportunity to build a governance framework that is stronger, more transparent, and more accessible than ever before.

Thank you."

*Taylor requested that the record reflect the Park and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes from September 2025, the 2017 Park Policies and Procedures Manual that was published on the City's website, the meeting minutes from October and December of 1994, and the Tulsa Park and Recreation Board Rules and Regulations from 1994 (revised in 2006). Due to the size of the requested documents, all requested documentation is located in the Park and Recreation Board SharePoint under the June 9, 2026, meeting folder and is available upon request.

VI. 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.

VII. **Next Meeting** – The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Park and Recreation Board will take place on July 14, 2026, at Helmerich Center for American Research – 1400 N. Gilcrease Museum Road, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74127.

VIII. Adjournment at 10:49 AM.