

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Parks and Recreation Board**  
**August 4, 2026, at 9:00 AM**

Route 66 Train Depot | 3770 Southwest Boulevard | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74107

Attendees:

| MEMBERS          |         |        |
|------------------|---------|--------|
| NAME             | PRESENT | ABSENT |
| SAVAGE           | X       |        |
| MEINDERS BURKETT | X       |        |
| MILLER           | X       |        |
| REESE            | X       |        |

|        |   |  |
|--------|---|--|
| TOTALS | 4 |  |
|--------|---|--|

- I. Chairperson Savage called the meeting to order at 9:09AM.

Chairperson Savage mentioned Connie Dodson who assisted in setting up this meeting.

- II. Savage asked for the review and approval of June 9, 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 | 4 |  |  |  |
|--------|---|--|--|--|

Motion carried.

- III. Savage asked for the review and approval of July 14, 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 | 4 |  |  |  |
|--------|---|--|--|--|

Motion carried.

#### **IV. REPORTS**

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

America noted that the department has wrapped up day camps at the Community Centers. America noted the pools will close on August 8, 2026. America noted many people have asked why the pools do not stay open throughout the summer. America noted that many of the lifeguards are in school, so they are unable to continue working through the remainder of the summer.

America noted that a Tulsa Police Officer started to raise money on his own for kids in North Tulsa to be able to swim for free at Lacy and Jane A. Malone. Reese asked how much passes cost, Caleb Klugh noted that it is \$3/pass. Klugh noted that they sell around 10,000 passes per year. Klugh noted that the donations exceeded \$3,000. America noted that there are scholarship opportunities at the Community Centers for families who need assistance.

America noted that Klugh noted many of the teenagers in Tulsa are unable to swim. Because of this, the department is trying to develop programming for swim lessons.

America noted that Klugh came from Climb Tulsa and was able to bring new ideas to recreation in our department.

America noted that there is a stormwater pipe underground that will delay the Woodward Park project for a few weeks.

America noted a time capsule was buried in Woodward Park in PVC pipe. America noted that, under supervision of the department, they allowed the people who buried it to come by and dig it up.

America noted that Friday is the groundbreaking at Johnson Park.

America noted that next Thursday the department will be reaching out to the Ben Hill community to get started on that project.

America noted that Stacie Martin is working with multiple groups to collaboratively maintain Redbud Valley. America noted that the Cherokee Nation is looking to take a larger role at Redbud.

America noted that the relationship between the department and Outdoor Classroom is ending but the partnership was positive.

America noted the continued theft at Mohawk Park. America noted that there are multiple ways to get into Mohawk Park which makes it difficult to surveil the park for crime.

America noted that Meinders Burkett asked if this was a park. America noted that it is a managed entity. America noted that there are other facilities like Cyrus Avery Plaza and the eventual Crybaby Statue that are managed by the department but are not technically a park.

Questions were welcomed.

b. \*Managed Entities and User Group Updates – Tarah Moutray

Moutray noted that the department has worked to standardize the contracts with their User Groups and Managed Entities.

Moutray noted that the vandalism of these facilities is difficult to maintain. Moutray also noted the difficulty of managing aging facilities.

Moutray noted that they have worked to have organizations come out to Community Centers to create more of a partnership with them.

America noted that the agreements note who is responsible for maintenance, repairs, utilities, and what type of programming is offered to the community. Meinders Burkett noted the importance of consistency across these contracts.

Moutray noted that the Tulsa Zoo and Bike Club have offered free programming to Day Camps.

Savage asked if the groups set the time that the facilities are open. Moutray noted that the department gives the groups flexibility to set their own hours.

Savage asked, administratively, does Moutray works with the groups for events that they hold. Moutray noted that the groups set the rates and dates for their events.

America noted that one of the first things that you address in the contract is the purpose of the contract. America gave an example of the Route 66 Train Depot; they are an event center and an open-air museum 24/7 to the public (outdoors).

Savage noted that she appreciated the level of detail in the report from Moutray.

**V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

a. The importance of a fully active board and public participation – James Taylor

“I also understand there has been discussion about limiting public participation by reducing opportunities for citizens to comment on agenda items.

Last month, I spoke during the approval of the meeting minutes because I believed they did not accurately reflect what had been said. I provided a verbatim transcription to help

correct the public record. That opportunity mattered and it demonstrated exactly why public comment should be protected and not restricted.

Rather than looking for ways to limit public participation, I hope this board will look for ways to expand it. These parks belong to the public. The public should have every reasonable opportunity to participate in decisions about them.

Finally, I want to return to Rodden Park.

According to Chair Savage, Teresa and Anna maintained that Rodden Park was not being used. But anyone who visits the site will find signs prohibiting horseback riding and golf practice. Those signs weren't installed because no one was using the park. They were installed because people were.

According to the minutes, Anna said there was no park, just open green space. And for that I want to quote Leslie Knope, "there are no small parks, only small ideas." To further display the importance of public participation I would like to bring up a few ideas that this seven acre full sun green space would be ideal for...

A small scale composting operation that diverts waste to regenerate our public park lands.

An incubator for native pollinators that could be used for seed collection to likewise regenerate our public spaces.

A place to ride horses.

A place to practice golf.

A walking trail through a native tree orchard.

An ultimate frisbee field.

A food as medicine teaching garden.

A pumpkin patch for City of Tulsa community centers Halloween activities.

A site for an annual park board glow in the dark dance party.

The point is simple: seven acres of public green space is not "empty" because it hasn't yet been fully imagined. It only appears that way when the public isn't invited into the conversation.

The easiest thing to do with a park is to call it unused. The harder thing, and the thing that requires leadership, is to ask what it could become. That is why we need a fully active Parks Board and a public process that invites ideas instead of avoiding them. Because parks aren't protected by empty chairs and closed conversations; they are protected by people showing up.

Now, last month I asked for one simple act of accountability, I asked that by the next board meeting, you all publicly identify every written policy that currently governs this Board.

Were you able to do so?"

**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 September 1, 2026, at the Tulsa Garden Center – 2435 S Peoria Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74114.

**VIII. Adjournment** at 9:43 AM.