



Park Commission Meeting

January 5, 2026

7:00 PM

Springbrook Nature Center, 100 85th Ave. NE, Fridley

Minutes

Call to Order

Chair Borman called the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present

Riley Auna
Peter Borman
EB Graham
Melissa Luna
Jodi Rehlander
Ken Schultz
Don Whalen

Absent

Tim Kirk
Jodi Rehlander

Also Present

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director
Katy Dahl, Program Coordinator, Springbrook Nature Center

Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for January 5, 2026

Motion by Commissioner Graham to approve the January 5, 2025, meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Luna. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes for December 1, 2025

Motion by Commissioner Graham to approve the December 1, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Luna. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

2. Election of Vice Chair

The Commission briefly discussed the Vice Chair position, currently held by Commissioner Graham. Since several Commissioners were not present at the meeting, the group decided to move this item to the February 2nd meeting.

No formal action taken.

3. 2026 Springbrook Nature Center Program Review

Springbrook Nature Center Coordinator Katy Dahl presented an overview of planned 2026 programming. This includes special events, day camps, school field trips and a variety of other programs.

4. Commons Park Sculpture Project Update

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Maher presented an update to the Commission on a public art sculpture project that is underway as part of the Commons Park improvement project. The sculpture process is being guided by the Fridley Public Arts Commission and is being funded by the non-profit Fridley Creative Arts Foundation. Artist Ken McCall is creating the sculpture and staff are coordinating details to facilitate installation for the park grand opening to be held July 18th. Additional community engagement efforts are being planned to use the sculpture as an opportunity to celebrate the artwork themes of unity, diversity, water and nature.

No formal action taken.

5. 2026 Workplan

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Maher presented an overview of a 2026 workplan document for the Parks and Recreation Commission.

No formal action taken.

Old Business

FYSA Report

Riley Auna joined the Commission for his first meeting since being appointed by the Fridley City Council to represent the Fridley Youth Sports Association as an ex-officio Commission member. Mr. Auna reported that currently youth basketball is active during the winter months. Around 150 kids in grades 2-8 are enrolled in the program. There is a planned clinic to introduce K-1 age kids to basketball and learn basic skills. Mr. Auna acknowledged that one challenge for the group would be soccer fields for the upcoming year with some planned improvements to Community Park impacting field space. Typically, soccer enrollment has been higher at around 165 kids and the fall season has been around 95 kids. The group encourages volunteers to step forward to coach teams. Mr. Auna is looking forward to contributing to the Commission.

Staff Reports

6. Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff Report

Mr. Maher provided an overview of the written report, highlighting recent events, upcoming programming activities and events, and updates on park improvement projects.

Adjournment

Commissioner Luna made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Graham. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Staff Liaison