



# Park Commission Meeting

November 3, 2025

7:00 PM

Fridley City Hall, 7071 University Avenue NE

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## Minutes

### **Call to Order**

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

### **Present**

EB Graham  
Peter Borman  
Melissa Luna  
Tim Kirk  
Jodi Rehlander  
Ken Schultz

### **Absent**

Don Whalen

### **Also Present**

Mike Maher, Parks and Recreation Director  
Councilmember Ann Bolkom

### **Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Agenda for November 3, 2025**

*Motion by Commissioner Kirk to approve the November 3, 2025, meeting agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Graham. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **Approve Parks & Recreation Commission Minutes for October 6, 2025**

*Motion by Commissioner Schultz to approve the October 6, 2025, meeting minutes. Seconded by Commissioner Rehlander. The motion passed unanimously.*

### **New Business**

1. Refined Concept Plan for Flanery Park

Parks and Recreation Director Mike Maher provided background information on the Park System Improvement Plan (PSIP), which included concept plans for each of the City parks. He explained that each year, before a park is redesigned, staff bring the concept plan with updated options to

gain input from residents. He stated that the feedback is then used to create an updated plan that is used to create the construction plans for the park. He reviewed the concept plan included in the PSIP, provided information on the summer 2025 community input, and presented the updated concept plan for the park.

Commissioner Graham asked if the curb for the trail would be wheelchair accessible. Mr. Maher confirmed that there would be a concrete curb cut that would be ADA accessible.

Charlene Wade, 1564 75<sup>th</sup> Avenue, stated that she was part of the PSIP and believes that the new concept is much improved. She was happy to see the parking that would be provided and that the rink would be saved. She commented on how the demographics of the neighborhood continue to change, and the park and pavilion are well used. She commented on how quickly the surfacing on the pickleball court has been deteriorating and hoped that would be addressed.

Chair Borman asked if the drainage concerns that were mentioned by the community were perhaps causing issues with the pickleball court.

Ms. Wade commented on a suggested orientation for the courts and was pleased to see the incorporation of the walking paths. Mr. Maher provided additional input on court maintenance and confirmed that the decision for the courts would be made using input from engineering.

Sarah Bern, 1491 Onondaga, thanked the Commission and staff for their work and for incorporating the input of the residents in the neighborhood. She asked if the trail would be plowed in the winter for year-round usage. Mr. Maher replied that decision is undetermined as of now, as the trail is currently proposed to be gravel. He stated that if there are funds available in the budget, they could consider paving the trail, but noted that trails have a lower priority for plowing in the winter.

Ms. Bern noted that Google Maps sends people to 75<sup>th</sup> which is perhaps why people park along that roadway. She noted that the pavilion is well used and was happy to see the updated plans for that, noting that additional parking could even be added to support the heavy pavilion use in the summer.

*Motion by Commissioner Schultz to endorse the updated concept plan based on community engagement for Flanery Park. Seconded by Commissioner Graham. The motion passed unanimously.*

## 2. Proposed Park Shelter Rental and Deposit Rate Adjustment

Mr. Maher presented information on the current and existing shelter fees, the issues that have been identified, and the proposed increases to the fees. He confirmed that the current deposit of \$50 has not been a motivator for some people to follow the rules. He noted that the hope would be that the increased deposit would motivate people to follow the rules, while not making it prohibitive for others to rent the facility.

Commissioner Luna commented that she was pleased to see that this proposal falls into the middle of the comparisons from other similar entities. She agreed that she would not want the deposit to be prohibitive for birthday parties or other smaller events.

*Motion by Commissioner Kirk to recommend approval of the proposed fee increases as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Luna. The motion passed unanimously.*

3. Revised 2026 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Maher noted a conflict that arose with the January meeting date, and therefore, the location has been changed to Springbrook Nature Center.

*Motion by Commissioner Rehlander to approve the revised 2026 meeting schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Graham. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Staff Reports**

4. Fridley Parks and Recreation Staff Report

Mr. Maher provided an overview of the written report, highlighting recent events, programming, construction progress at Commons Park, and staff training.

Chair Borman commented on the positive feedback he received related to Pumpkin Night in the Park. Commissioner Schultz encouraged residents to volunteer for the pumpkin carving for the event.

**Old Business**

None

**Adjournment**

*Commissioner Luna made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Kirk. The motion passed unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Maher, Staff Liaison