

Harrisburg Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board  
Unapproved Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Recreation Board was called to order on March 12, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., with Scott Langerock presiding. Members present were Ryan Berg, Elizabeth Heidinger, Chris Kuntz, Jason Nelson and Shannon Gustafson. Also present were Magenta Hammond, Amanda Mack, and Toby Huizenga from the City, Alderman Kevin Maxwell, Librarian Cheyenne Chontos, and David Locke from Stockwell Engineers.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mack discussed the resignation of Jason Thurston, indicating that a consultant would be working with City Administration to determine the direction of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department. For the time being, Toby Huizenga will be assuming Thurston's duties. Mack also noted that Administration would like to use a capital carryover with funds currently assigned to Central Park improvements, allowing for a full phase to be completed in 2026.

Consent Agenda: Motion was made by Kuntz, seconded by Stolsmark to approve the consent agenda as presented.

1. Approved Agenda – Declaration of any Potential Conflict of Interest
2. Approved February 12, 2025 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board Meeting Minutes

Upon roll call, all members present in favor.

Business Items:

HBA announced that registration for the 2025 season will close in two days; registration is down slightly but 40 players moved up from recreation to travel teams. HBA has introduced the "Level the Playing Field" grant, allowing scholarships for players experiencing financial hardship. HBA will again partner with Tea to add playing fields.

The Community Foundation provided an update on Scheels Park, noting the partnership with the school district and that they have \$150,000 remaining to raise for phase one (the championship softball field) and that phase two will complete the cloverleaf fields.

Locke provided an update on the Harrisburg Trails Plan; the plan is with a graphic designer and is expected to go before City Council in April, followed by MPO, DoT, and other pertinent agencies.

Hammond delivered the staff reports, noting that mowing and maintenance for ballfields has begun a lift has been rented to install the nets, and the FCS grant is still in the works for the community gardens. The Parks department will partner with the Chamber for the upcoming Easter Eggstravaganza on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Last Day of School party.

The board decided to post the open board seat to the public.

Heidinger urged the board to commit to planning a recreational opportunity for the near future; it was decided to add the discussion to the agenda for the next meeting.

Langerock publicly thanked Thurston for his years of service and hard work in support of the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department.

With no further business, a motion was made by Berg and seconded by Kuntz to adjourn the meeting at 6:45. Upon roll call, all members present in favor.

The next regular meeting of the Harrisburg Parks & Rec Board will be held at 6:00 pm on April 9, 2025.

Submitted by Shannon Gustafson, Secretary.