**Harrisburg Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board**

**Unapproved Meeting Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board was called to order on August 13, 2025, at 6:00pm., with Scott Langerock presiding. Members present were Ryan Berg, Elizabeth Heidinger, Heather Stolsmark, and Marie Story. Also present were Magenta Hammond, Toby Huizenga, and Heath VonEye from the City, Librarian Cheyenne Chontos, John Sutton with the Harrisburg Baseball Association, and Kevin Maxwell as the City Council liaison.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

1. Approved Agenda – Declaration of any Potential Conflict of Interest
2. Approved July 9, 2025 Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board Meeting Minutes

Upon roll call, all members present in favor.

**Business Items:**

**Park Board Members Roles and Responsibilities** – Due to a couple of misunderstandings/miscommunications with the meeting minutes, it was decided that a discussion around the roles and responsibilities of the Park Board members would be had at this meeting. VonEye stated that it is unique for this board to have a board member as the secretary, and that it would be preferred for a staff member of the city to take the minutes going forward, to which Park Board agreed.

**Harrisburg Baseball Association** – John gave an update on how the season ended: The Legion team came out on top as State Champions which brought them to Fargo, ND for regionals where they played their hearts out in the semi-final round. Now that the spring/summer seasons are over for baseball, flag football will be starting up soon. John also mentioned that there is potentially going to be another field being constructed at Journey Elementary that they would then also be able to use for games and practices.

**Harrisburg Chamber Update** – No update at this time.

**Park Board Event** – The members of Park Board continued to discuss an event they would like to host in the future. They talked about potentially having it at the Union Social/Air Madness on a slow weekday or during spring break in the early months of 2026. Cost estimates would need to be considered so that the event could be put into the budget request for 2026. VonEye explained to the board that going forward, the budget would be done a little differently than it has been in the past with all smaller items, such as this, being better ear marked within the larger items (community events, in this case).

**City Green Spaces** – VonEye explained to the board with a visual how much “green space” the city owns and what is considered park land vs city property. The board would like to see more actual park land in the future as there is not currently much area dedicated to producing new parks. VonEye asked Park Board to prioritize which park land area(s) they want funding/grants to be found for first so the ball can begin rolling.

**Central Park Parking Lot Recommendation** – The Board will be recommending to City Council that the Central Park Parking Lot phases be completed in 2026.

**Park Board Budget** – Much of this item was discussed within the “Park Board Event” discussion. VonEye explained that the Park Board does not actually have much of a budget, but that it would be something they could incorporate into the budget for next year.

Hammond gave updates for the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Reports. The storms that rolled through recently did a number on the main baseball field (bleachers) and gave the Parks Employees plenty of trees/branches to remove around town. National Night Out didn’t have quite the attendance that it did last year, but roughly 850 food tokens were handed out and over two dozen businesses/community groups participated. Fishing with the Outdoor Campus on August 15th will be the last event/program for 2025.

With no further business, a motion was made by Berg and seconded by Stolsmark to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm. Upon roll call, all members present in favor.

The next regular meeting of the Harrisburg Parks, Recreation & Forestry Board will be held on September 10th, 2025.

Submitted by Magenta Hammond, City of Harrisburg Staff Member