



# Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2026 ~ 6:30pm ~ Regular Meeting  
Skinner Store Building ~ 111 Greenwood Rd., Blue Lake ~ Behind City Hall

1 **1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:31pm**

2  
3 **2. ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH A QUORUM OF THE COMMISSION**

4  
5 **COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Jan Henry (Chair), Bettina Eipper, James Brown

6  
7 **COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Tim Daniels

8  
9 **STAFF PRESENT:** Emily Wood (Director of Parks & Recreation)

10  
11 **OTHERS PRESENT:** John Sawatzky (Mayor). Elise Scafani (Mayor Pro-Tem), Dana  
12 Rivinus, Julie Vinum, Mardi Grainger, Jeff Bird, Darcey Lima, Kevin Fisher, Ingrid Fischer

13  
14 **3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA –** Motion by James Brown/Second by Bettina Eipper to  
15 approve agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

16  
17 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

18 The following persons addressed the commission:

- 19
  - Kevin Fisher – thanks the community for Mad Scramble support.

20  
21 **ITEMS FOR COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION OR ACTION**

22  
23 **5. COMMISSIONER WELCOME: TIM DANIELS**

24 Tim Daniels was absent from this meeting due to illness. This item will be postponed to  
25 the next meeting.

26  
27 **Public Comment:** No Public Comment Received

28  
29 **6. CITY COUNCIL COMMISSION CONSOLIDATION DISCUSSION**  
30 **(PREVIOUSLY ITEM 10)**

31 Jan Henry expresses concern about the Commission Consolidation and requests Item 10 to  
32 be moved before Item 6. John Sawatzky briefly responds to the topic.

33  
34 Motion by James Brown to move item 6 before item 10, Second by Jan Henry. Motion  
35 passed unanimously.

36  
37 **Public Comment:**

38 Darcey Lima asks for clarification about council liaison and thinks the Parks & Recreation  
39 Commission has many topics to discuss.

40  
41 Mardi Grainer thinks the Arts & Heritage Commission and Economic Development



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42 Commission could be dissolved due to having less items to discuss.

43  
44 \*End of Public Comment

45  
46 Commissioners Jeff Bird, James Brown, Bettina Eipper, and Jan Henry discussed their  
47 thoughts on consolidating commissions. Elise Scafani and John Sawatzky engage in the  
48 discussion.

49  
50 No action was taken on this item.

### 51 52 **7. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND SECRETARY – PER ORDINANCE 447**

53  
54 **Public Comment:** No Public Comment Received.

55  
56 Motion by James Brown to table this item until the next meeting, Second by Bettina Eipper.  
57 Motion passed unanimously.

### 58 59 **8. BROWN ACT OVERVIEW**

60  
61 **Public Comment:** No Public Comment Received.

62  
63 Elise Scafani gives a brief overview of the Brown Act to Commissioners and others  
64 present.

65  
66 No action was taken on this item.

### 67 68 **9. PARKS & RECREATION FEE SCHEDULE**

69  
70 **Public Comment:**

71 Darcey Lima speaks in opposition of proposed horse arena fee increases, discusses the  
72 Saddle Club's contributions to the arena, expresses importance of having a portable toilet  
73 at the arena, and inquires about rental rate for long field concession stand.

74  
75 Dana Rivinus speaks in opposition of proposed horse arena fee increases, parking fees,  
76 and proposed Prash Hall restroom rental for outdoor events.

77  
78 Julie Vinum speaks in opposition of proposed horse arena fee increases, suggests annual  
79 paid membership to arena based on keyed access. Supports a public restroom being  
80 added back to arena.

81  
82 \*End of Public Comment



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83  
84 Mayor Sawatzky speaks about the proposed fee increases and city's budget deficit.

85  
86 Commissioner Eipper suggests capitalizing off river goes and being strategic about  
87 attracting people to Blue Lake. Mentions the Medieval Festival bringing people together  
88 and benefiting nonprofits/schools in our region.

89  
90 Commissioner Brown suggests changing the usage fee for the arena.

91  
92 Commissioner Eipper suggests reviewing the state of facilities and creating a project list  
93 for repairs needed on buildings and spaces the City is looking to rent.

94  
95 Council Member Scafani speaks in favor of seizing opportunities for revenue and enabling  
96 better cost recovery for recreation programming.

97  
98 No action was taken on this item.  
99

### 100 **10. BIKE & SKATE PARK UPDATES**

101  
102 Director Wood gives a brief report about the status of the Bike Park project, including MOU's  
103 with Mountain Bike Tribal Trail Alliance (MBTTA) and Redwood Coast Mountain Biking  
104 Association (RCMBA) that have been approved by City Council. Director Wood also noted  
105 the Bike Park Corrective Action Plan was approved by Council. Director Wood states that  
106 she's received confirmation from CA State Parks that LCWF grant recipients have not yet  
107 been selected and applicants will hear back in the spring season about the status of their  
108 application.

109  
110 **Public Comment:** No public comment received.

111  
112 No action was taken on this item.

### 113 **11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

114  
115  
116 No further announcements were made.

117  
118 **Public Comment:** No public comment received.

### 119 **12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

120  
121  
122 **Public Comment:** No public comment received.

- 123
  - Commissioner Welcome – Tim Daniels



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- Appointment of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary
- Facility Walkaround Ad Hoc
- Bike &\* Skate Park Update (monthly)

### 13. MOTION TO ADJOURN

**Public Comment:** No public comment received.

Motion by James Brown to adjourn meeting at 8:17pm, Second by Bettina Eipper. Motion passed unanimously.

**Adjourn at 8:17pm**

Prepared by Emily Wood, Director of Parks & Recreation