

**Recreation Commission
Board Meeting Minutes
Commission Chambers
October 20, 2025**

10/20/2025 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Members Present: Patty McKeeman, Robbie Shields, Andrew Motis

Staff Present: Stephanie Lutton, Parks and Recreation Director; Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk; Deena Drumgo, Assistant City Manager

Chair Andrew Motis called the meeting to order. A quorum was not present.

2. Communications And Petitions

3. Minutes

3.I. Minutes - September 15, 2025

The minutes of September 15 were reviewed but could not be approved due to a lack of a quorum.

4. Parks And Recreation Updates

Stephanie Lutton, Parks and Recreation Director, said they are partnering with Main Street on their Spooktacular on Friday and there will be a Fall Fest event in November.

Ms. Lutton will have conceptual Plans for a BMX facility in the next week and can show them next month. The other grant projects are in process.

Patty McKeeman asked about the location of fall fest. Ms. Lutton said it will be at the Lake Wales Family Rec Center on November 15. The Rotary on the Ridge will be hosting a pancake breakfast that morning. Ms. Lutton reported that members of the Warner baseball team came and did some volunteer work at the Recreation Center.

There was discussion on the potential installation of a dedicated lightning detection system at the soccer park. Director Stephanie Lutton informed the Commission that the idea had been explored several years ago but was deferred because the initial cost estimate was significantly higher than anticipated. She confirmed that the item is back "on our radar" and that she has conferred with the finance department about potential feasibility. However, the current protocol relies on park users utilizing personal devices and phone-based weather applications for real-time safety alerts.

Regarding the Outdoor Fitness Equipment project at the lake, Ms. Lutton reported that the quote for the roughly 12 pieces of equipment (including cardio and strength stations) came in around \$100,000, which is double the \$50,000 grant received. Staff is currently seeking additional financial partners to cover the shortfall. Work on various trail grants is also progressing, including the "Ridge Scenic Highway Trail" project.

Ms. Lutton said the Recreation Center continues to experience a steady increase in membership, with staff anticipating the usual spike in new enrollments during the January/February period. The Center is actively selling gift cards that can be used for memberships, classes, and other programs, promoting them as the "gift of wellness."

Robbie Shields recommended leveraging local NBA player Water Clayton Jr. (Jazz) for a high-profile community engagement or basketball event, noting his strong ties to the area. Ms. Lutton acknowledged that while he was previously involved in a community event, his current professional status, managed by a staff and requiring paid appearances, makes scheduling and securing his involvement more challenging. Mr. Shields made a recommendation to reach out to his mother, who still lives in the community, to explore his potential interest in a widely publicized event.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Chair/Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Secretary