

**Recreation Commission
Board Meeting Minutes
Commission Chambers
November 17, 2025**

11/17/2025 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Members Present: Burney Hayes, Josh Havens

Staff present: Shay Iris, Events and Venues Coordinator, JC White, Turf Maintenance Specialist, Deena Drumgo, Assistant City Manager; Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk

Burney Hayes, in absence of the chair and vice chair, called the meeting to order. A quorum was not present.

2. Communications And Petitions

3. Minutes

3.I. Minutes - September 15, 2025 And October 20, 2025

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

4. Parks And Recreation Updates

JC White, Turf Maintenance Specialist, reported that the turf at the Soccer Field is currently performing well, which is attributed to the intensive Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices implemented over the summer, including laying 10 acres of sprigs and recently applying potassium and phosphorus in preparation for overseeding. Fall maintenance included comprehensive pest control, treating for crickets, worms, and ants, along with applying a contact and preventative fungicide. This fungicidal application addresses anticipated disease pressure (*Rhizoctonia*/Brown Patch) associated with cooler temperatures and expected rain towards the end of December/early January. The grass is expected to hold up well this season, similar to last year, which received many compliments. Once the overseed sprouts and roots in, initial mowing will be a "double cut" at about one inch before lowering the height the following month. This lower, tighter cut creates a safer playing surface and greatly improves the turf's resistance to wear and heavy traffic.

Regarding irrigation and infrastructure, schedules have been adjusted to reflect cooler temperatures and reduced operation times, with ongoing system checks to ensure efficient water usage. While the overall fields are doing well, some high-traffic areas that were not consistently managed over the season will be addressed and covered up this winter. The department is actively working on upgrading the current outdated irrigation system, specifically the clock, to allow for remote management via phone and provide better performance statistics, which is necessary because the current pressure system is obsolete and replacement parts are unavailable. The maintenance crew is now preparing to shift fully into the winter maintenance program.

There was discussion on the old irrigation system.

Shay Iris, Recreation, reported that the annual Fall Festival at the recreation center was a major success this past weekend, attracting both new and returning attendees and generating positive feedback. This year's festival included the popular pumpkin patch and an expanded offering of a petting zoo alongside the pony rides, which were operated by JC. The high turnout led to a new logistical challenge: the parking lot reached full capacity, prompting plans for reevaluating future parking strategies. In other successful

programming, the department is hosting its first Senior Bingo Luncheon today, held in collaboration with American Care. This event was chosen after a recent poll showed strong interest from seniors for incorporating more activities like a talent show, trivia day, and bingos at the center. Shay Irvis also noted that a group senior trip to an unknown location is currently underway, and the events generally are performing very well.

Looking ahead, the next major event is the return of the Christmas Cinema in December, with a date pending, which will be held around the lake and feature several activities. The department has also benefited from volunteer interns from Warner University, who are finishing their tenure after a successful month or two of keeping the facility organized. For future planning in the upcoming year, Ms. Irvis said she is developing a Vision Board Workshop—a fun, resource-focused event planned for March and September to help residents set goals for the new year. Vendors will be invited to provide resources on topics like investing or home buying. Finally, Ms. Irvis reported that she is working to bring back a Volleyball League for ages 9 to 14, targeting the middle school demographic, to fill a void left when the YMCA stopped running the program. An update on the BMX efforts is pending once coordination with the County's sports marketing division resumes.

Burney Hayes asked for updates on Fraser Field. Ms. Irvis said the update on the lights for the NW complex is that the department will finally be inheriting the lights currently being used by another organization at the Referees' Field once that organization completes the final stages of obtaining their new license. This transition is expected to occur within the next month or so, after the current user is finished with their equipment, some of which needs to be disassembled. The department will assist with the transference process once the licensing and equipment transition details are finalized.

Mr. Havens reported that the high school sports scene is off to a strong start. The winter sports season is officially underway, with girls' basketball having their first game tonight and boys' basketball starting their season next Tuesday. The high school soccer program is also getting started. In recent news, the football team is preparing for a challenging game this Friday against Zephyrhills. The cross-country program has seen significant success, with a Regional Champion who will be competing at the State Championship this Saturday in Tallahassee. The name of the winner is Gabriel Harrison, who won the entire region at a recent meet in New Smyrna Beach.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is December 15, 2025.

Chair/Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Secretary