

LENEXA PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

**MINUTES OF JULY 8, 2026, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
LENEXA CITY HALL, COMMUNITY FORUM, 17101 W. 87 ST. PKWY.,
LENEXA**

The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m. by Chair Aivars Sics.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board members present: Gary Ewing, Sarah Hanson, Wanda Kiewiet, Jennifer Lindsey, Diane Schmidt and Pat Thomas.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member absent: Jeff Mark.

Staff members present: Logan Wagler, Parks and Recreation Director; Mandy Danler, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; Danny Huntsinger, Parks Superintendent; Sarah Hirst, Recreation Superintendent; Curt Talken, Parks Horticulture & Forestry Operations Manager; Jordyn Pomerantz, Urban Forestry Specialist; and Cheryl Doleshal, Senior Administrative Assistant.

BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion for approval of June 10, 2026, minutes was made by Ms. Kiewiet, seconded by Mr. Ewing, and approved 7-0.

Director Mr. Wagler requested a modification to tonight's agenda. The Trail Alignment Study Report will be added after the Tree Inventory staff update.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion for approval of the adoption of the amended agenda was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Schmidt, and approved 7-0.

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF UPDATE – JORDYN POMERANTZ (TREE INVENTORY)

Ms. Pomerantz, Urban Forestry Specialist, shared information on The City of Lenexa's Tree Inventory. A tree inventory is a digital GPS asset management system used to map and track trees. Main uses are collection and tracking data and providing better understanding and management of the urban forest. Currently there are 37,308 mapped trees in Lenexa (7,934 City owned, 25,916

private owned and 3,458 in the works). The biggest factor when it comes to having a strong urban forest is diversity. Tree diversity golden rule is the 10/20/30 rule: no more than 10% of trees in a city should be of the same species, no more than 20% should be of the same genus, no more than 30% should be of the same family. Our inventory has many capabilities beyond tracking tree types and locations. The data we collect helps us understand how to better manage and grow Lenexa's forestry canopy. Our goal is to clean up the inventory best as possible so we can eventually make it open to the public, excluding some restricted data.

TRAIL ALIGNMENT STUDY REPORT – DANNY HUNTSINGER

The 2024 Parks and Recreation Master Plan identified expanding trail connections as a priority. This study wanted to look at the entire trail system, not individual projects; evaluate every future trail corridor identified in previous plans; create a roadmap to guide future investments; and prioritize projects with the greatest community benefit. Study identified several strong opportunities. Three priority corridors were highlighted. Each improves connectivity in a different way and represents the best balance of impact and feasibility.

- Canyon Creek – Future Destination Trail
 - Scenic stream corridor
 - Connects to Mize Lake
 - Future regional loop
 - Unique trail experience
- Clear Creek – Neighborhood Connections
 - North-south connection
 - Neighborhood access
 - Natural stream corridor
 - Future expansion
- Black Hoof Connection – First Construction Priority
 - Connects Buffalo Meadows & Black Hoof Park
 - Existing easements
 - Lower complexity
 - High connectivity value
 - Construction planned later this year

TREE ADOPTION REQUEST – SAR-KO-PAR TRAILS PARK (MICHELLE KING FOR STANLEY OLSEN)

The department has been offered the adoption of a memorial tree at Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park by Michelle King in honor of her late father, Stanley Olsen. Over the years, Mr. Olsen brought his children and grandchildren to the park where they created many cherished family memories together.

Motion for approval to accept the Sar-Ko-Par Trails Park tree adoption request from Michelle King was made by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Schmidt, and approved 7-0.

BENCH ADOPTION REQUEST – BLACK HOOF PARK (ALAN BRENNAMAN FOR MARIBETH BRENNAMAN)

Mr. Alan Brennaman has requested to adopt a memorial bench at Black Hoof Park in honor of his late wife, Maribeth Brennaman. Ms. Brennaman had a deep appreciation for birds, nature and the tranquility the park provided. The bench will serve as a lasting tribute to her life and provide a meaningful place for visitors to enjoy the natural beauty she cherished.

Motion for approval to accept the Black Hoof Park bench adoption request from Alan Brennaman was made by Ms. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Ewing, and approved 7-0.

REPORTS TO THE BOARD

Members' Reports

Sarah Hanson – At last month's meeting it was mentioned as a possibility to expand the donation program options by adding community garden spots and cemetery benches. Both Ms. Hanson and Ms. Schmidt stated they would like Mr. Wagler to explore expanding the Memorial Program brochure language.

Aivars Sics – Thanked staff for another successful Great Lenexa BBQ event. He also thanked Board members Pat Thomas, Wanda Kiewiet and Gary Ewing for volunteering. The event is a great team effort. He agreed it was a good decision to close the park during the heavy rain on Thursday.

Pat Thomas – The BBQ Ambassador Program has been a great success ever since its beginning.

Gary Ewing – Mr. Ewing has used the Lenexa Street Tree Replacement Program and stated it is a good option to replace ash trees.

Wanda Kiewiet – Ms. Kiewiet loves the new Ad Astra Pool. The channel is fun.

Diane Schmidt – Inquired about Honeysuckle being added to the noxious weeds list and the impact it will have on the department. Mr. Wagler said staff has not determined next steps yet.

Director's Report

Mr. Wagler reported the following:

- Ad Astra Pool was scheduled to open on Saturday, July 4 but due to rain opening day moved to Sunday, July 5. The pool recorded 733 visits which is a record number. Feedback from the community has been very positive. The remainder of the project is underway. An open celebration will be planned for a later date. Details to follow.
- The **Rec Center Improvements Project** is scheduled for July 13. – September 20. The annual natatorium pool cleaning is scheduled for August 2-7. During those dates the pool will be closed.
- Several bikes from the KC Bike Share Program were rented from the Rec Center station and taken to Shawnee Mission Park where they were significantly damaged. Information is known on all suspects.
- During the last 3-4-week period, parks and recreation staff have been amazing. They pulled together for the BBQ, Ad Astra Pool opening, Lenexa Freedom Run and the parade (even though it was canceled, last minute due to weather). We have a great, hardworking staff whom he is very proud of and wants it on record that the P & R team is awesome!

Staff Reports

Ms. Danler reported the following:

- The Rec Center has several new pieces of fitness equipment on the 3rd floor.
- During the Rec Center improvements, pickleball will not be affected on the second floor except when the new GX2 floor is installed (August 3-9).

Ms. Hirst reported the following:

- Special thanks to Mr. Thomas for spearheading the BBQ Ambassador effort, along with Mr. Ewing and Ms. Kiewiet as volunteer ambassadors, and Mr. Sics for competing in the event for many years. Estimated attendance was around 10,700.
- The 2026 July 4 Freedom Run had a total of 1,923 participants which was 235 more runners than 2025.
- July 9 is the Art Gallery Reception for Johnson County Developmental Support Emerging Artists.
- Teddy Bear Picnic takes place Saturday, July 11 during the Public Market from 8:30-9:15 a.m.
- Missoula Children's Theatre at Lenexa Old Town Activity Center starts July 13 with performances on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. Play is "The Emperor's New Clothes".
- The next History Lunch & Learn at Thompson Barn is scheduled for July 16. Theme is What a Ride! Rural Community-Owned Carnivals.
- Moonlight Bike Ride is Saturday night, July 18 beginning at 10 p.m.
- There are two Community Orchestra concerts in July (18 & 31). Concerts take place at Shawnee Mission Northwest High School.
- Last day of Summer Day Camps at both locations is Friday, July 31.

- The Farm to Fork Campaign with the Public Market and Farmers Market is August 2-8.
- Paws in the Pool is August 15 at Flat Rock Creek Pool.
- Tiny Tot Tri takes place on Saturday, August 22.
- August 25 is the last Farmers Market Tuesday of the season.

Mr. Huntsinger reported the following:

- The BBQ event was a success, but the park took a hit with rain both days. Restoration has taken place and the park will be in good shape before long.
- Facilities crew has been focusing on outdoor pools and festivals, mostly at Ad Astra Pool.
- Both turf and landscape divisions are in summer maintenance mode.
- Work continues with mowing, watering, weed control and pest management; most recently landscaping and sodding at Ad Astra Pool.
- **Rose's Pond Reconstruction Repairs** started this week. Crews are making good headway.
- The **Electric Park Trail Replacement** is about 50% complete. As soon as that trail is finished, work will begin on the **Hickory Ridge Trail** (Ad Astra Trail) **and Bridge Project**.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Kiewiet, seconded by Ms. Hanson, and approved 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Cheryl Doleshal, Recording Secretary