

Minutes of Recreation Advisory Commission
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 16, 2025 6:30 PM

Rec & Ed Office

1515 S. Seventh St. Ann Arbor, MI 48103

MEMBERS PRESENT Mark Brehob, Hannah Cary, Nicholas Crowe, Aiden Kang, Irene Kim, Claire Lowande, Rima Muhammad and Hannah Smith

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT Victor Morales-Rios and Sean Williams

GUESTS PRESENT Holly Klotz - Rec & Ed LifeLong Learning Manager and Evan Grau - Rec & Ed Youth Camp Supervisor

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Hannah C. called the meeting to order at 6:31pm

- II. PUBLIC COMMENTARY – None

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the May 13, 2025 meeting. A motion was made by Mark and seconded by Hannah S. that the meeting minutes of May 13, 2025 be approved. On a unanimous vote, Hannah C. declared the motion carried.

- IV. OLD BUSINESS

- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Who's Who on RAC - Membership Introductions
 1. Hannah C. lead introductions
 2. Members welcomed newly appointed by the BOE members, Claire Lowande and Laurence O'Connell (absent)

 - B. Presentation: [Early Childhood & School Age Summer Camps 2025](#) - Holly Klotz & Evan Grau
 1. Early Childhood Summer Camps - Holly Klotz
 - a) Types of Camps
 - Science/Engineering
 - Dance
 - Themed
 - a. All Around Ann Arbor
 - i. Kids learned all about their community
 - b. Superheroes
 - c. Halloween in July
 - i. Kids got to dress up every day in their Halloween costumes
 - d. Splash Into Stories
 - e. Birthday Party

- Parent/Child - Balance & Pedals (Bike Camp) and Soil Superheroes
- Indoor & Outdoor activities for all
- b) 2025 Camps & Enrollment Data
 - Camps located at Westerman Preschool
 - Ages 3-5 years Old
 - Monday-Friday, 9am-12pm or 9am-1pm
 - June-August (10 weeks)
 - 27 camps
 - a. Mark asked a question about running 27 camps every day
 - Holly answered 27 camps total throughout 10 weeks
 - 258 Campers
 - a. Mark asked if these numbers are unique or overlap
 - Holly answered it could overlap and they had a lot of repeat campers
 - In addition to camps, ECH summer classes run June-August
- c) New Camps in 2025
 - Enchanted Experiments
 - Birthday Party Science
 - Splash Into Stories
 - Roar & Explore Dino Science
 - Halloween in July
 - Little Rainforest Rangers
 - Paintbrushes & Petri Dishes
 - ABC: Always Be Curious (Pre-Kinder Camp)
 - a. Prep kids who were going into kindergarten
 - b. Claire asked if this camp was open to Young Fives
 - Holly answered it for 3-5 year olds and some could have been young fives
- d) Indoor Activities
 - Campers did several indoor activities like scavenger hunts, puppet shows, go on the climbing wall, swings, do science experiments and dancing
- e) Outdoor Activities
 - Go on the playground, sand boxes, bike camp (parking lot) and splash stories with water activities
- f) Main Camp Instructors
 - Kyla Graves (a.k.a. Professor Star)
 - Kelly Williams
 - Jasmin Brown
 - Lisa Dietz (Dance & Grow)
- g) Special Visitors
 - Huron-Clinton Metroparks
 - a. Brought animals such as snakes, turtles and frogs
 - Ann Arbor Fire Department & EMS
 - a. Campers walked through vehicles
 - Holly mentioned that the most important thing about these camps with the age that's involved is that this is potentially their very first exposure to a classroom or being dropped off anywhere by their parents, being dropped off for an activity.
- h) Questions/Comments
 - Rima asked how are the numbers compared to prior years and then how many spots were offered

- a. Holly mentioned that numbers were very similar to last year. They did offer three fewer camps total because the ones that were offered last year that canceled, they didn't offer this year. Three camps were canceled last year.
- b. Holly mentioned that numbers were about the same as in the past, but they also were offering classes at the same time. They saw an increase in parent/child classes this year.
- Mark asked what the cost of camps are
 - a. Holly said they vary \$169-229 and are dependent on instructor/supplies
- Mark asked how these compare to other camps
 - a. Holly mentioned there are not a ton of drop-off camps in the area for this age group and prices are not any higher than other camps in the area
- Mark asked about how they would increase scholarships for these
 - a. Holly said every single camp offers at least one scholarship. If a camp passes a certain number of enrollments, then they can offer more
 - b. Holly mentioned that at the beginning of registration, they reserve spots for scholarship participants. After a certain amount of time, if the spots aren't used, then the spot opens up. They make sure everyone has the opportunity to use their scholarship
- Claire referenced Parks & Rec summer camps and how they fill up quickly. Asked if this was the case for early childhood camps
 - a. Holly said it depends on the subject area and the ones that tend to fill up are the slightly more expensive ones. Science and dance camps fill up very quickly.
 - b. Holly mentioned that not every single camp filled up though
- Irene asked if the numbers are similar to summer classes
 - a. Holly said they are different because classes are maybe an hour long and there are a lot of parent involvement classes and numbers are very different
- Rima asked if there has been a discussion of plans on how to adjust the camps that aren't filling up versus the ones that are filling up quickly
 - a. Holly said yes there have been discussions and they will add another instructor so they can take more kids. They are cautious with the little ones because they want to make sure that they offer a quality camp

2. 2025 School Age Summer Camps - Evan Grau

a) Types of Camps (School-age camps apply to 5-13 years or 5-12 years)

- Sports
 - a. Basketball, baseball and fencing
- Art
- STEM & Academic
- Dance & Theater
- Themed
- Literacy & Reading

b) 2025 Camps & Enrollment Data

- 132 Camps
- 2,737 Campers
- Growth from 2024

- a. Evan mentioned that it was intentional and did not want to increase the amount of camps because he felt like they were going for quantity over quality
 - b. 144 camps ran in 2024
 - c. 132 camps ran in 2025
 - o Mark asked if he had a rough idea of what the number of unique campers is
 - o Evan said his educated guess would be 1,500 and there are a ton of repeat campers all summer. However, there were a ton of new ones too
 - o Claire asked if they run 132 camps a week
 - o Evan said this is from June 16 to the week of August 18, 11 weeks of camps. Roughly 320 campers average per week
 - o Evan mentioned that the Huron High School field hockey camp is run every summer and is a fundraiser camp for the school. They get a decent portion of revenue made and use those funds to help facilitate their sports and athletic department
 - d. 2,659 campers enrolled in 2024
 - e. 2,737 campers enrolled in 2025 (increase of 78 campers)
- c) New Camps in 2025
- Taylor Swift-Themed
 - Grant Funded Camps: Project Lead The Way and Reading & Literacy
 - Jr. Doctors
 - Martial Arts
 - Weightlifting
 - T-Ball
 - Podcasting
 - New Dance Camps
 - Acting/Theater Production
 - Questions
 - a. Evan mentioned that enrollment was low for these camp
 - b. Rima asked if they were the same time as summer school programs
 - c. Sean said there is a good chance that there was overlap with summer school
 - d. Evan said that all four reading & literacy camps ran and some that did not do well were the PLTW camps. He had to hire staff for these camps and had teachers from the district come in an help
 - e. Irene asked what the age range was for the PLTW camps
 - f. Evan said 1st-3rd grade, 4th-5th grade and 5th-6th grade
 - g. Irene asked if there was a variety in the enrollments based on age
 - h. Evan said not very much. Younger sections did better because they were full day camps
 - i. Mark asked about volunteering and that kids did not want to do them and about the branding of PLTW camps
 - j. Evan said they made sure to not include PLTW in the title. He said in the past they did a half day camp and included it in the title. The camp was always full when offered
 - k. Sean mentioned that typically in October, they look back and see

what changes can be made

- l. Holly mentioned that they evaluate in many ways. Volunteers, instructors, parents and anyone who attended the camp
 - m. Claire asked about the benefit of having themed camps every week and seems like a lot of administrative overhead. Also, what the cost benefit is for these camps
 - n. Evan said that they raised the price this year to a little over \$300 for a full day (9am-4pm) camp and can go up to \$400. Other organizations are offering similar priced camps. He said he personally does not like the idea of a stale day camp and letting kids go do whatever they want and maybe do some arts and crafts. He likes having the set curriculum taught by high quality instructors is what go them to where they are
 - o. Evan mentioned that there is some tinkering they can do. Hopefully will benefit them in the end
 - p. Holly mentioned that having the themed camps help kids make friends easier because they have that common interest
 - q. Claire asked if they know how many camp participants were in another themed camp
- d) Highlights & Success Stories
- Averaged just over 200 campers per week that attended camp at their main camp location (Abbot Elementary). This is the most in one location since 2019.
 - From June 16-August 1, averaged 325 campers enrolled per week in all camps
 - Successfully implemented a new check-in/check-out procedure at main camp location
- e) Goals for 2026
- Introduce New Camps
 - a. Expand sports offerings and continue introducing new themes for enrichment camps
 - Specifically golf
 - Increase Camper Participation
 - a. Without increasing the number of camps that are offered (e.g., +5–10% more campers than 2025)
 - Enhance Staff Training
 - a. Provide additional training for camp staff to improve program quality and camper experience
 - Maintain Current Partnerships and Explore New Partnerships
 - a. Bring in new organizations.instructors with fresh ideas to help enrich camp programming
 - Expand Accessibility & Inclusion
 - a. Ensure more options for campers with diverse needs (e.g. adaptive sports or literacy support)
 - b. Currently offer TA's when available
 - Improve Marketing & Outreach
 - a. Promote camps earlier through new channels to reach more families
 - b. Social media improvements from this year
- f) Questions/Comments
- Hannah S. asked about the Huron High School camp and if that is

something they can expand on

- a. Evan said they work with all the high schools to offer fundraising camps
 - Skyline offered 4 basketball camps
 - Pioneer offered 2 basketball camps
 - Pioneer offered 2 volleyball camps
 - Huron offered a field hockey camp
- b. Evan mentioned that these camps typically fill up
- Claire asked about how the training for the high school camps compare to the training that is done with camp staff
 - a. Evan said for high school camps, the training falls on the coaches. They do send them general guidelines, but no formal training
- Claire asked about first aid/CPR training
 - a. Evan said all the coaches are first aid certified, CPR certified, and background checked because they are all employees of the district
- Holly mentioned that different Rec & Ed divisions collaborate throughout the year with classes, camps and instructors
 - a. When after school classes do well, they can be turned into camps
- Sean applauded Holly and Evan for their work this summer

C. Rec & Ed Program Highlights - Sean Williams

1. Rec & Ed Summer & 2025-2026 School Year

a) Team Sports

- Offering Fall adult basketball league for the first time
- Winter adult basketball went away during the pandemic and was brought back and was continued in the Spring due to success
- Offered sand volleyball at Wolverine Pickleball
 - a. Moved due to construction at Slauson
 - b. Offered a new opportunity for an adult league, social leagues
 - c. Wolverine said they would like to have Rec & Ed back again
 - Cost is a factor and will be determined later on
- Field Hockey numbers are increasing for the Fall season
- They had great communication with the city on how things were going for diamond sports
- Registration for Fall II sports going on - basketball, volleyball and flag football
 - a. Mark asked how many down was this summer compared to previous numbers
 - Sean said numbers are down from a budget perspective. Down about 25%

b) Before & After Care

- Offering after care options for all elementary school
- All K-5 schools have PM care options and hoping to open at A2STEAM soon
- A few sites that they bus from one site to another close by
- Mark asked about Ann Arbor Open
 - a. Sean said they do not offer before/after care there based on previous surveys and families not needing it.
 - b. Mark asked when the last survey was
 - c. Sean said Summer of 2024

- d. Mark said he's heard some complaints about this
 - Claire asked about Rec & Ed offering before/after care at every K-5 school. Claire mentioned that children attend some AAPS schools and Rec & Ed is not the child care provider
 - a. Sean said after care options are available at all schools, Rec & Ed provides care to 13 sites and services 16 schools
 - b. Burns Park, King and Lawton have contracted service providers
 - Claire asked how the prices compare to the contracted service providers
 - a. Sean said Rec & Ed charges \$373 per month for after care five days a week
 - Claire asked what the rationale is between Rec & Ed serving some of these schools and independent providers serving other schools
 - a. Sean said providers have been in those school environments for a while now and staffing to add more sites
 - b. Rima mentioned that those providers have historically been at those schools and were consistently able to provide care. They are a company and different.
 - c. They struggled for a while to bring back after school care and they are making progress
 - d. Claire mentioned that some of the outside providers could give their staff different types of hours whereas it can be hard to get staff to show up at 7am and then again at 3:30pm
 - e. Sean mentioned that coming out of the pandemic, outside providers were able to offer care as soon as schools were open again. Rec & Ed had to rebuild and make sure they had staff
 - f. About every school does currently have openings for care
 - g. Sean said they are constantly hiring staff to provide high quality care. They want after care to not be just a daycare option and want to have some programming in there.
 - Partnering with the Ann Arbor District Library and they were able to come out to Bryant and Mitchell to do some literacy work
 - Looking into more robotics and science opportunities
 - They talk about the social emotional learning with staff
- c) Life Long Learning
- Debate class offered by great instructors
 - Science classes for kids
 - Hula Hoop dance for adults
 - One challenge they are currently facing is with their very popular woodworking classes. There is only one woodworking studio left in the district, located at Slauson and they are going to be going through renovations starting in December
 - Woodworking classes are offered six nights a week
 - These classes require a special room
 - Rec & Ed is working with the district to see what spaces may be available and working with outside companies as well
 - a. Mark asked if they have talked to Maker Works
 - b. Sean said that Holly has been in contact with them

VI. BRIEFING AGENDA

A. Report from PAC – Hannah Smith

1. June meeting
 - a) Report on dog park pop-up
 - Results were positive and would like to make permanent
 - b) Approved a resolution for renaming the Hansen Nature Area
2. August meeting
 - a) City wide pickleball survey
 - Strong support about adding pickleball courts, some adding stripes to tennis courts, some were not as supportive
 - b) Infrastructure requests for lights and resurfacing on courts
 - c) Exploring Cranbrook, Hunt, Northside and Vets Park
 - d) Approved resolution of approving funds from Washtenaw County for the Older Persons Milage
 - e) Mark asked about if noise could be a reason for the pickleball courts
 - Hannah S. said that did come up on the surveys
 - Victor said there will have to be more polling about locations and have to find locations that make sense
 - Mark asked if there are locations that are far from homes
 - a. Victor said that Vets or West park could be options and want to find a location that works for everyone

B. Report from Parks & Recreation – Victor Morales-Rios

1. The dog park was positive. Ran November-April
 - a) Conversations of bringing it back for 16 months and get more data
 - b) Want to see how dogs would react through a longer period of time with the traffic
 - c) Rec & Ed would lose a field for spring/summer/fall sports
 - d) Mark asked where the dog parks were located
 - Victor said three dog parks. There is not one on the west side of town
2. Allmendinger project is done
3. Splash pad at Bicentennial is going smoothly and quickly
 - a) Should be done in the Spring/Summer of 2026
 - b) Claire asked if the splash pad is free and unstaffed
 - Victor replied yes

C. Report from Community Education & Recreation – Sean Williams

1. Hired a new Finance & Operations Manager, Shantae Townsel in May 2025
 - a) Just finished the year end finance report

VII. TRANSMITTALS - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Mark motioned to adjourn the meeting and Nick seconded the motion. After a unanimous vote, Hannah C. adjourned the meeting at 7:51pm