

Minutes of Recreation Advisory Commission
RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 6:30 PM
Rec & Ed Office
1515 S. Seventh St. Ann Arbor, MI 48103

MEMBERS PRESENT Mark Brehob, Hannah Cary, Nick Crowe, Stacy Ebron, Jodi Hecker, Aiden Kang, Claire Lowande, Conor Neville, Larry O’Connell, Hannah Smith and Ciara Witt

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT Jon Mallek, Victor Morales-Rios and Sean Williams

GUESTS PRESENT Seth Dodson - Rec & Ed Team Sports Manager

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Mark called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

II. PUBLIC COMMENTARY – None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the September 16, 2025 meeting. A motion was made by Nick and seconded by Hannah S. that the meeting minutes of September 16, 2025 be approved. On a unanimous vote, Mark declared the motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome New City Council Appointed Members - Jodi Hecker, Conor Neville and Ciara Witt

B. Parks Advisory Commission (PAC) Liaison Nomination

1. Hannah S. nominated all yes 2 yr

C. Presentation: Team Sports 2025 - Seth Dodson

1. Fall Team Sports Report

a) Fall 2025 Youth Team Sports

- Fall Soccer - 2,066 participants
 - a. 621 games
 - b. 17 fields
 - c. 196 teams
 - d. 12 locations
 - e. 242 non-resident participants

- Fall Soccer - 2,066 participants
 - a. 621 games
 - b. 32 teams
 - c. 62 non-resident participants

- Fall Practice & Play - 72 participants

- b) Fall II 2025 Youth Team Sports
 - Fall Flag Football - 300 participants
 - a. 63 games
 - b. 26 teams
 - Fall Basketball (2nd & 3rd Grade) - 457 participants
 - a. 144 games
 - b. 46 teams
 - Fall Volleyball (4th-9th Grade) - 385 participants
 - a. 130 games
 - b. 41 teams
 - Fall & Fall II - 3,508 total participants
 - a. Mark asked if this is counting people who signed up for multiple sports
 - b. Seth said they are counted twice
- c) Youth Team Sports - 2025 Fall - Feedback
 - Voted 1st Place in Soccer Programs in the recent Ann Arbor Family Press' Annual Family Favorites
 - 341 Volunteer Coaches
 - Seth mentioned that many of the officials are 14 or 15 years old
- d) Fall 2025 Adult Team Sports
 - 130 teams total for indoor Fall volleyball
 - a. Increased by 6 teams
 - b. 29 new teams for Fall
 - Introduced a new Fall basketball league
 - a. 9 teams total - 4 women's and 5 men's
 - Introduced a new Fall sand volleyball league
 - a. 20 registered - 15 team played
 - 28 diamond sport teams total
 - a. Gained 5 new teams across all leagues
 - b. 220 free agents inquiries across all 6 sports
 - c. Created 4 volleyball & 2 basketball teams
 - d. Found teams for another ~30 free agents
- e) Questions or Ideas?
 - Mark asked a question about tennis or individual sports and how are they involved with Rec & Ed
 - a. Seth said they do run the tennis program including USTA leagues. They use AAPS outdoor courts and use the indoor courts at University of Michigan
 - b. Seth mentioned that they run into cancellations with the indoor sessions
 - Claire asked about why the basketball numbers are so small
 - a. Seth said facilities are very limited due to running other youth sports. The only middle school gym that has lower hoops is Tappan
 - b. Claire followed up asking if it is mainly a space issue
 - Seth responded yes, there are just not enough facilities

- Claire asked what does team sports need to do serve more or improve on
 - a. Seth said facilities are the biggest issue especially with construction going on at schools. They are working with outside facilities for our programs and using fields they don't usually use
 - b. Seth mentioned that sand volleyball courts are gone due to construction going on at Slauson. They have collaborated with Wolverine Pickleball to use their facilities
- Stacy asked if there will be any change or opportunities to use other spaces
 - a. Seth said that it is going to be difficult and they will make it work. They have been working with the high schools to use spaces
- Larry asked if they are making money on team sports - referenced last year
 - a. Seth replied yes, numbers were down but numbers are down in other areas
- Claire asked about profit margin of team sports
 - a. Sean said he can gather that information
- Jodi asked if Rec & Ed is being involved in the design process of the new schools
 - a. Seth said no and Sean confirmed that they are not involved in that
- Jodi asked if they have a sense of the participants who are ESL
 - a. Seth said that is one of the biggest concerns in team sports and making sure all kids can participate in their programs
 - b. He also said that one of the biggest issues is transportation
 - c. Sean added that his mission as director is to change some of the ways that they work and approach differently. They are open to everybody, but need everyone to know this

D. Rec & Ed Program Highlights - Sean Williams

1. Rec & Ed Highlights

- a) Voted 1st Place in soccer programs in the recent Ann Arbor Family Press' Annual Family Favorites
- b) Voted 2nd Place for crafting and enrichment as well as sports camps
- c) Applied for another out of school time (OST) grant
- d) Winter class registration going on now and have had 2,132 registrations in the first week
- e) Update from last meeting and woodworking classes
 - Found a solution with MakerWorks
 - Found space for their classes for a reasonable rent
- f) Sponsors
 - Looking for sponsorships
 - Sponsorships are helpful for the Rec & Ed scholarship program
 - Claire asked about getting a beer sponsorship for adult leagues
 - a. Sean said they are not able to do that because they are connected to the school district
- g) Questions
 - Stacy asked if they get sponsorships from physical therapy businesses and would be an opportunity for companies to promote.

VI. BRIEFING AGENDA

A. Report from PAC – Hannah Smith

1. October meeting
 - a) Update on Barton Dam project
 - b) Presentation from Downtown Development Authority on their development plans on downtown city parks
 - c) Resolution approved for the Bicentennial Park splash pad project
2. November meeting
 - a) Update on the Bluebelt Program
 - Focused on preservation of that land that protects the city's water source quality
 - b) Approved a resolution to add a full time position to the Ann Arbor Senior Center

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

1. Have been in communication with Rec & Ed about construction at the middle schools
 - a) Mainly discussing Spring sports and locations for these
2. Bicentennial project is 80% done
 - a) Splash pad is done
 - b) Working on bathroom area with showers and lockers
 - c) Expect fields to be open for Rec & Ed use
3. Dog park update
 - a) Vets #4 will be used for 16 months to gather enough data to make a decision of having a dog park on the west side of town
4. Questions
 - a) Mark asked if there have been updates since the last PAC meeting about the Barton Dam
 - Jon provided an update saying that the Barton Dam is classified as the highest security risk category. They are looking into that classification and if it is correct then possibly looking into an amendment to shrink and allow more access
 - b) Mark mentioned the Leslie Park courts and asked if the park would be serviced soon
 - Victor said he is not sure at this time and they are meeting about it soon
 - c) Claire asked about the Vets dog park and if they are causing the outfield
 - Victor replied yes they are using the outfield.
 - Claire asked if they have had any complaints about the field being a ballpark
 - a. Victor said there have not been many complaints

C. Report from Community Education & Recreation – Sean Williams

1. See above in New Business, Letter D

VII. TRANSMITTALS - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Stacy motioned to adjourn the meeting and Claire seconded the motion. After a unanimous vote, Hannah C. adjourned the meeting at 7:40pm