

Minutes of Recreation Advisory Commission

RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 6:30 PM

Rec & Ed Office

1515 S. Seventh St. Ann Arbor, MI 48103

MEMBERS PRESENT Mark Brehob, Hannah Cary, Nicholas Crowe, Jodi Hecker, Aiden Kang, Irene Kim, Conor Neville, Larry O'Connell, Hannah Smith & Ciara Witt

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT Erica Briggs, Victor Morales-Rios & Sean Williams

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. PUBLIC COMMENTARY – None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the December 9, 2025 meeting. A motion was made by Mark and seconded by Ciara that the meeting minutes of December 9, 2025 be approved. On a unanimous vote, Hannah C. declared the motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. [Rec & Ed Sponsorship Program Presentation & Discussion](#) - Sean Williams

1. Who is Responsible

a) Elyse Bairley, Engagement Coordinator - bairley@a2schools.org

2. Department-Wide Sponsorships

a) [Rec & Ed Department Sponsorship Packages](#)

- Set up a way for businesses to sponsor and get their name out there
- This is for all divisions of Rec & Ed
- Scholarship program is a fee waiver program, not a funded program
 - a. Based on family needs and qualify for a certain number of classes/camps
- Can make customized packages and work with businesses
- Sponsors are featured on shirts, on website and in newsletters
- Conor asked how much do they spend a year offsetting these costs for fee waivers
 - a. Sean said thousands of dollars
 - b. Conor recommending letting people know this
- Ciara asked is there a distinction between sponsors, potentially you'd direct in one way or another
 - a. Sean said not necessarily. Companies reach out and say they would like to sponsor a specific sport or area
- Jodi asked if this has been incorporated into staff training so they can

talk about it

- a. Sean said yes all of their management team is part of the process and some have recruited businesses
 - Jodi followed up asking if hourly staff have been trained
 - Sean said it probably has not gotten that far, but will mention this to the managers
 - Jodi mentioned that at the Y that they had trainings about what to ask and say
- b. Hannah S. asked how many sponsors they currently have
 - Sean replied that they have 7 sponsors and another coming this Summer
 - Some sponsors have been sponsoring for 10+ years especially in the team sports area
- c. Erica asked if this has been benchmarked against other communities in terms of understanding what that point is
 - Sean said they wanted to get the program footed and plan is to go back and revamp the team sports side
- d. Hannah C. asked if these are annual sponsorships
 - Sean said they are by season
 - Sean said that there are sponsors who sponsor programs and some that sponsor specific teams

3. Team Sports Sponsorship

- a) [Team Sports Sponsorship Packages](#)

4. Spread the Word!

- a) Let prospective sponsors know about our opportunities
- b) Sponsorship package information can be found on the [Rec & Ed website](#)
- c) Questions - Email Elyse at bairley@a2schools.org
- d) Questions or Ideas?
 - Larry asked if Rec & Ed has a booth at Art Fair, this could get the message out
 - a. Sean said they do not have a booth. They do manage “Kid Zone” at Ann Arbor Summerfest
 - Hannah C. mentioned sharing local chamber of commerce
 - Larry mentioned rotary organizations
 - Hannah C. mentioned sharing with BrightWorks Coworking
 - Irene asked what social media posts look like
 - a. Sean said they do social media shoutouts
 - b. Sean mentioned logos appear in newsletters and on website

VI. BRIEFING AGENDA

A. Report from PAC – Hannah Smith

1. January meeting
 - a) Presentation on parks Asset Management Plan
 - b) Update on Barton bridge replacement project
2. February meeting
 - a) 2028-2032 Parks & Recreation Open Space Plan
 - b) Pickleball update on how to expand in existing parks
 - 15 parks that have options
 - Two highest scored parks were Cranbrook & Northside
 - Finalizing to move forward, will need to be resurfaced and striped

- c) Approved a resolution to recommend an application to Michigan DNR for replacement of Barton Pedestrian Bridge
- d) Questions?
 - Mark asked what the time frame is for resurfacing of pickleball courts
 - a. Hannah said possibly Fall of 2026, Victor confirmed
 - Nick asked if there were any updates on the Vets Memorial Ice Rink
 - a. Victor said the cost of rebuilding vs replacing the compressor. Once they get numbers, that will help make a decision

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

- 1. Bicentennial - opening in May
 - a) Depending on DTE and restore
- 2. Registration for Summer programs will open April 1
- 3. Budget - second year of the budget cycle and not expecting many changes for upcoming cycle
- 4. Contractor overseeing Parks & Rec space plan is Agency Landscape and Planning
- 5. Questions
 - a) Larry asked if the problem at Vets will affect the pool
 - Victor responded no, said they will move some activities to Buhr
 - b) Jodi asked about how surrounding camps open in February and why Parks & Rec does a later start
 - Victor said he was not positive, but will find out the answer
 - [Parks and Recreation Registration Dates/Times Update from Victor](#)
 - c) Jodi mentioned that some of the swim camps cost less than surrounding camps and asked how they are able to still make money on these camps
 - Victor mentioned that they are doing it as a family service and for the community
 - d) Erica commented that registration opens during spring break time and can be hard for families to register
 - e) Hannah S. mentioned that you can give input at [Engage Ann Arbor](#)
 - Jodi asked who these go to
 - Hannah said it's a pool and they review all suggestions they get

C. Report from Community Education & Recreation – Sean Williams

- 1. Summer Camps registration opened on February 24, 2026
 - a) In the first 24 hours there were 2,958
 - b) As of 3/9/26, there were 3,484
 - c) Continuing to have more come in and are up 900 registrations from this time last year
 - d) Spring Break camps up as well, these are only 4 days
 - e) Awarded Out-of-School Time Grant from the State of Michigan
 - f) Will provide additional scholarships for families in certain camps
 - g) Working with Avalon Housing to help families
 - h) Main camp site is Eberwhite
 - i) Had a grant in 2025 that helped child care and camps
- 2. Life Long Learning Department (Birth-Adult)
 - a) Spring & Summer classes opened March 10, 2026
 - In the first 4 hours, there were of 1,000 registrations and this was an increase from last year
 - Based on customer feedback, it was recommended that starting registrations at the same time works well

3. Team Sports Department
 - a) Youth Winter season is wrapping up
 - b) Spring youth sport registration closed on March 9, 2026
 - Department is forming teams now
 - c) Registration for Summer adult diamond sports has begun
 - These will begin in May
 - d) Rec & Ed partnering with Wolverine Pickleball again for sand volleyball leagues
4. Questions
 - a) Mark asked about Before and After Care and if it going smoothly
 - Sean said it is going very well and they are always evaluating fees
 - b) Jodi asked if they will be opening more spaces specifically in Spring Break Camps
 - Sean said that if there is a large waitlist, then they go to the vendor and see if there is an opportunity to open another section/camp
 - Jodi asked if they have feedback about the registration process, who should they speak to
 - a. Sean mentioned that they can reach out to him directly

VII. TRANSMITTALS - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- A. Larry motioned to adjourn the meeting and Conor seconded the motion. After a unanimous vote, Hannah C. adjourned the meeting at 7:29pm