Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission

June 2025 Minutes - DRAFT

Monday, June 9, 2025

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at Andersen Park on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Chair Nicole Sullivan (Ward I), Vice-Chair Sarah Emanuels (Ward III), Commission Members Katie Anderson (Ward I), Dustin Wolfe (Ward I), Sarah Grittmann (Ward II), Sam Komosa (Ward II), Chris Schlenker (Ward III), Dylon Sease (Ward III), Jacque Gameson (Ward IV), Lyndsey Kratzberg (Ward IV), and Cindy Long (Ward IV).
Visitors: Whit Emanuels and Ward I City Councilmember Wanda Vaughn.
Council Liaisons: Councilmembers Debbie Kring and Brian Schmid.
Staff: Penn Almoney, Parks and Recreation Director.

Call To Order. Chair Nicole Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes
The Minutes from the May 12, 2025, Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission Meeting were reviewed. **Jacque** motioned to approve minutes with no changes, **Sarah G.** seconded**. Minutes were approved 10-0.**

Positive Improvements
Dylon complimented Nicole's presentation of the PRT Commission's 2025 Priorities at the May City Council meeting.

Katie reported concerns over the lack of fencing and proximity to the parking lot at the Mohawk Park "younger kid" playground. **Penn** noted this to review with staff.

Katie also reported that at summer camp the bathroom stall doors near the PCC gym keep jamming. Penn noted this for staff to review.

Nicole asked about if anyone had attended the Public Works open house to a few raised hands. **Councilmember Kring** noted how great the seven-year-old facility is compared to the previous facility. **Jacque** shared that her favorite item at the event was the "name-the-snowplow" program.[1]

In response to a question from **Chris, Penn** said the FitPass program is going well and that he has yet to hear sustained negative feedback. Staff still must educate patrons about using poker chips to check into fitness classes, (used as a fitness class registrant and attendee). **Penn** added that two-thirds of fitness class attendees have patron-paid memberships and one-third are insurance-paid memberships. He was surprised by these findings, as he assumed it would be more evenly split.

[1] https://www.missionks.org/news/snowplow-naming/

Penn announced that Nall Avenue Baptist Church has adopted Mohawk Park. The church completed a routine cleanup on Sunday, June 8.

Penn noted that Down Syndrome Innovations planted flowers at Beverly Park at the end of May as part of their Beverly Park adoption.

Sustainability Liaison for July 7. Dustin committed to attending this meeting.

Maintenance Items
Penn advised that the HVAC condenser fan broke in the PCC north gym. Contractors are able to fix this within one to two days. He added that one side of the PCC is a little warmer now, but that is primarily due to summer camp opening and closing the North gym doors.

Penn shared that the water fountain located on the second floor of the PCC in the fitness space by the elevator has been replaced. This is a special sized unit that took two months to arrive. **Penn** also noted that the water spigot on the west side of PCC has been replaced.

Penn announced that the Orange Slide at the Mission Family Aquatics Center (MFAC) is currently closed and will likely be closed for the rest of the season. It was refurbished two years ago with a non-specified product that required further maintenance last season, which didn't fully rectify the issue. While the city is continuing to work with the original contractor (who will offer an estimated $10,000 credit), **Penn** said that we may need to contract the work to Splashtacular, who is the original manufacturer and also refurbished the Green Slide in Spring of 2025. In response to a question from **Dustin**, **Penn** added that Splashtacular was approximately 30% more expensive in their original bid.

Cindy shared that the swimsuit dryer in the PCC locker room is a huge hit. **Penn** said that some initial education was required as patrons were drying prohibited items, such as shoes.

Sam asked about a smattering of dead trees at Water Works Park. **Penn** said that a walk-through was completed last week. Select trees have been removed and will be replaced.

Action Items/Council Items:

Penn reported no active action items for City Council as the city is entering budget and capital improvements review. In response to a question from **Dustin**, Penn said that the Broadmoor Park Bridge replacement project will be discussed. As discussed at the March PRT Commission Meeting, the project recommends the bridge to be replaced with a culvert and filling out the detention basin by potentially relocating the bioswale.[2] In response to a question from **Sam**, **Penn** said that the city received funds from a grant to maintain five bioswales in Mission years ago. City Administrator, Laura Smith, is investigating a buyout clause as these bioswales are extremely labor intensive. While this is in the planning phase, routine maintenance will still occur on the existing bridge. **Jacque** asked that we fence this off and place a sign that says improvements coming. In response to a question from **Councilmember Kring**, **Penn** said that maintenance will not be completed ahead of the July 12 family picnic.

Penn announced that PCC revenues are increasing, but the largest cost driver is part-time personnel. In response to a question from **Councilmember Kring, Penn** said that while we are adequately staffed with

[2] https://www.missionks.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/PRT-Minutes-Mar-10-2025-REV-4.15.25.cleaned.pdf

lifeguards for 2025, the MFAC will be requesting additional funding for 2026 because Mission lifeguard pay is about $2 per hour behind neighboring cities.

In response to a question from **Chris, Penn** announced that a Mission Market part-time coordinator named Leigh Ann has been hired.

Mission Market PRT Tent, June 19
Nicole announced that the PRT Commission is tabling at the June 19 Mission Market. **Lyndsey, Sarah G., Cindy, and Jacque** have all volunteered.

Subcommittee Meeting Update.
Tree Subcommittee: Sam said that he and **Penn** had a conference call with Bridging the Gap on June 3 and shared a drafted flyer to be printed out ahead of the June 19 tabling event. **Jacque** suggested that we add a deadline, such as September 1, for ordering trees. **Dylon** noted that the link to the flyer's QR code should be updated to have up-to-date announcements and deadlines. In response to a question from **Sam**, **Penn** said that he would meet with Deputy City Administrator and Sustainability Commission Liaison Justin Carroll to advertise and solicit volunteers for the September 20 Tree Pick-Up day.

Special Events Subcommittee: Dustin provided an update on the initial meeting of the Special Events Subcommittee. He reported that only three parks (Pearl Harbor, Beverly, and Mohawk) are currently in the Adopt-A-Park Program. The Special Events Subcommittee would reach out to three to five additional groups in hopes of garnering more adoptions. **Dustin** also added that Tree ID Plaques still must be installed this year. He will get a list from Park Maintenance Supervisor, Taylor Shaffer.

Jacque shared that the Kansas Forest Service has planted a maple tree to honor Cora Carlson's state finalist poster in the 2025 Arbor Day Poster. **Jacque** is waiting on tree specification details before installing a tree plaque.

Jacque announced that she met with Superintendent of Culture Susan Mong from the Johnson County Parks and Recreation District. Susan suggested that we solicit a corporate sponsor to cover any public art leasing fees. **Art in Parks Subcommittee Chair Sarah G.** noted this and would connect with Jacque for more information.

Mission Parks Tour.
Nicole invited all the commissioners to tour Andersen Park after the meeting. **Penn** added that a redesign of the walking path to be ADA compliant is a current capital improvement request.

Summer Family Picnic Volunteers for July 12.
Penn reminded commissioners that volunteers are needed at the Mission Summer Family Picnic on July 12 at Broadmoor Park.

Miscellaneous Discussion
Penn shared an update on the Milhaus Development occurring at Beverly Park. Construction is currently pending due to unforeseen expenses related to underground pipe relocation. He added that the June 18 City Council meeting should provide an update.

In response to a question from **Dustin**, **Penn** said that the next significant capital improvement project will either be Andersen Park or Broadmoor Park.

Commissioners agreed to host the July PRT Meeting at Legacy Park. **Nicole** said that the weather will be monitored ahead of that meeting to ensure a safe and comfortable environment.
Jacque added that after the meeting she will update the Andersen Park sign board with the Arbor Day championship poster and the Tree Drive flyer.

Upcoming Notes and Meetings
June 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. – City Council Meeting
June 19 at 4:00 p.m. – PRT Mission Market Tent
July 9 at 6:30 p.m. – Community Development Meeting
July 12 from 6:00 p.m. to Dusk – Mission Summer Family Picnic
July 14 at 6:00 p.m. – next PRT Meeting

Adjournment:
Sarah E. moved to adjourn the meeting; **Dylon** seconded the motion. **Motion passed 10-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Faithfully submitted by Sam Komosa, secretary pro tempore.