Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission

December 2025 Minutes - DRAFT

Monday, December 8, 2025

The Parks, Recreation + Tree (PRT) Commission met at Powell Community Center (PCC) on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

In attendance: Chair Nicole Sullivan (Ward I) and 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), and Cindy Long (Ward IV).
Council Liaisons: Councilmember Debbie Kring and Brian Schmid
Staff: Penn Almoney, Parks and Recreation Director.
Not in Attendance: Lyndsey Kratzberg (Ward IV).

Call To Order. Chair Nicole Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Review:

Approval of Minutes. The Minutes from the November 10, 2025, Parks, Recreation + Tree Commission Meeting were reviewed. Jacque requested a spelling correction on page 3 regarding the Thanks for Seniors Event. **Sarah G.** motioned to approve the amended minutes; **Katie** seconded**. Amended minutes were approved 9-0.**

Review:

Positive Improvements
Katie said the Thanks for Seniors event was terrific. Penn added that the event's 250 tickets were sold out. **Cindy** recommended other commissioners to volunteer next year, noting a very rewarding experience. **Penn** shared that Village Inn donated 50 pies to the event.

Holiday Lights and Festive Sights.
Dylon said that the event was a terrific turnout. **Penn** said it was a record turnout of about 750 attendees. He added that Jenny Smith wanted to give special thanks to **Jacque**, **Cindy**, and **Dustin** for volunteering.
Jacque thanked Recreation Coordinator Will Hann for assisting volunteers throughout the event.
Dustin said that the food vendors were wonderful and noted that the free children activity stations were critical. **Katie** added that the food turn around was quick and timely. **Dustin** suggested that we emphasize the audio output next year because the band and choir were difficult to hear.

Sam shared that his friends were excited to resume their long-running family turkey bowl on Thanksgiving Day at Mohawk Park. They had to relocate the pick-up game for the past two years during the Mohawk Park renovations.

Chris said that he attended the Northeast Johnson County Chamber Gala with **Councilmember Kring**, noting a wonderful event.

Sarah E. shared that she, **Nicole**, and **Penn** attended the Kansas City Metro Parks and Recreation Directors Association (KCMPRDA) biennial banquet event at the Zoo. They said it was exciting to mingle with other parks and recreation commissioners.

Councilmember Kring shared that **Penn** made the Fox 4 news in a story covering our Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony.[1] **Cindy** added that it was a fabulous event and special. **Penn** shared that the KC area had 56 Pearl Harbor survivors. Mission is the only city in the continental United States to have a dedicated Pearl Harbor Memorial Park.

Penn shared that the Tree City USA application has been submitted, with the growth award submission (higher standard of recognition) being completed next week.

Sustainability Commission Liaison (Q1)
Jacque said she would volunteer to attend the January 5 Sustainability Commission.

Discussion:

Maintenance Items:
Water Works Park. Dylon noticed that, due to no gutters, melted snow and rain runoff from the roof of the Water Works Park pavilion is wearing out the concrete below. **Penn** noted this for staff evaluation.

Pearl Harbor Park. Katie noted that the American Flag at Pearl Harbor Park needs replacement.

NextGen Free Maintenance. At the aforementioned KCMPRDA banquet, **Penn** won a 1-year trial of NextGen Free Maintenance at a value of $2,000.00 for Mohawk Park. NextGen is a company that visits parks monthly and provides routine maintenance. In response to a question from **Councilmember Kring**, **Penn** and **Nicole** noted that we prioritized boosting publicity for park-related donations to the Mission Charitable Fund. **Dustin** concurred, adding that he sees a similar idea advertised by the Johnson County Parks and Recreation Department on plaques at Antioch Park.

Action Items/Council Items:
Penn shared that he presented to City Council a request for procuring a Life Floor at a cost of $39,850 for the splash pad at Mission Family Aquatic Complex (MFAC). It is a decorative, safer slip-resistant flooring that covers and protects the concrete. The lifespan is 7 to 10 years on average in an outdoor setting.

Councilmember Kring said that Rushton Elementary will be recognized for LEED Silver Certification on Thursday, December 11 and invited commissioners to attend.

This is **Sam's** final meeting on the PRT Commission as he will be sworn in to City Council on December 17.

Special Project Subcommittee Meeting Updates.

[1] https://fox4kc.com/news/service-in-mission-remembers-those-lost-in-pearl-harbor-attack-84-years-later/

Arbor Day Poster Contest. Jacque announced that the kick-off email will be sent to Rushton Elementary on December 10 with the posters due January 29. They will be hung at the PCC and voted on by the public.

Chair and Vice-Chair Nominations
Chris nominated **Nicole** to be re-elected as Chair. **Jacque** nominated **Sarah E.** to be re-elected as Vice-Chair. These nominations will be voted on at the January meeting.

Dylon announced that he is leaving the PRT Commission at the end of the year. Commissioners thanked Dylon for his two years of service. This makes two vacancies Ward II (Sam) and Ward III (Dylon).

Championship Tree Vote
Commissioners reviewed four nominations for the 2025 Championship Tree: a crab apple (nominated by **Sarah E.**), a bald cypress (nominated by Graham Hoober), a pin oak (nominated by John Arnett), and a red maple (nominated by **Sarah E**). After much deliberation, the Bald Cypress was selected as the 2025 Championship Tree, capturing 8 of 11 (72%) votes.

Review PRT Priorities and Objectives
Sarah E. was excited that our number one priority – the Broadmoor Bridge Replacement – was completed. **Nicole** added that community engagement is a clear area for growth, requesting examples as we continue in the process of fine tuning the 2026 priorities. **Penn** noted that we should continue to highlight the theme of "Every Park, Every Year" as it provides a clear and concise message.

Councilmember Kring added that, in her 26 years on City Council, Mission has never had as effective of a Parks and Recreation leader as **Penn**, prompting applause.

In response to a question from **Dustin, Penn** said that city staff will be off for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day.

Penn said that in all his years, this group has the highest attendance of any PRT Commission group.

Upcoming Notes and Meetings
December 17 at 7:00 p.m. – City Council Meeting
January 5 at 6:30 p.m. – Sustainability Commission at City Hall
January 12 at 6:00 p.m. – next PRT Meeting at Powell Community Center (PCC)
January 14 at 6:30 p.m. – Community Development Meeting

Adjournment:
Cindy moved to adjourn the meeting; **Sarah G.** seconded the motion. **Motion passed 10-0.** The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m. [2]

Faithfully submitted by Sam Komosa, secretary pro tempore.

[2] Dustin arrived after the meeting was called to order.