

# Marblehead Recreation & Parks Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Friday, April 10, 2026 | 11:00 AM

Community Center

**Present:**

Rossana, Karin, Shelly, Larry, and Chris (via phone)

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## Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed the minutes from the March 24, 2026, meeting.

**Motion:** Larry moved to approve the minutes from the March 24, 2026, meeting.

**Second:** Karin seconded.

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

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## Public Comment

No public comment.

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## Shattuck Fund Request

The Commission discussed a potential Shattuck Fund allocation of approximately \$11,600, with the possibility of additional funds if other organizations do not use their full share.

Discussion focused on fencing improvements at Hobbs Playground as the first priority, with a possible bike repair station as a secondary request if additional funding is available.

**Motion:** Shelly moved to submit a Shattuck Fund request for Hobbs Playground perimeter fencing as the first priority, and a bike repair station as a secondary priority if additional funds are available.

**Second:** Rossana seconded.

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

**Action:** Jaime will draft the request letter and obtain pricing prior to the April 17 deadline.

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## 5. Reynolds Field Project Discussion and Motion

The Commission reviewed updated Reynolds Field project materials prepared by CHA in response to feedback received at the prior meeting, including revised layouts clearly separating Phase 1 and Phase 2.

Discussion focused on:

- preserving the current softball field playability during Phase 1
- reducing Phase 1 parking to approximately 20 spaces
- maintaining existing light pole infrastructure where possible
- avoiding duplicate paving and retaining wall costs in Phase 1
- including restoration of disturbed grass infield areas
- preserving flexibility should Phase 2 funding not become immediately available
- significant estimated cost savings through the revised phased approach

The Commission also reviewed the draft public-facing FAQ document and agreed it should serve as a factual communication tool.

Further discussion centered on the Phase 2 field surface selection, including synthetic turf versus natural grass, maintenance, drainage, durability, and procurement standards.

**Motion:** Shelly moved to direct CHA to proceed with design services for the Reynolds Field project based on the revised phased approach, including:

**Phase 1**

- refurbishment of the existing rink and related infrastructure

- refrigeration and roof systems
- acoustic fencing and enclosure improvements
- modular turf
- adjusted parking to preserve softball use
- restoration of the existing grass infield and disturbed areas
- associated site work, utilities, pathways, and fencing improvements

**Phase 2 (when funding becomes available)**

- conversion of the field and softball diamond to a multi-use synthetic turf field
- permanent drainage improvements
- expanded paved parking
- pedestrian and sports lighting
- ADA-compliant bathrooms
- field accessories and support infrastructure

The motion further included procurement language requiring best efforts to secure products that are third-party tested and found not to contain identified PFAS compounds.

**Second:** Karin seconded.

**Vote: Approved.**

**In favor:** Rossana, Karin, Shelly, and Chris.

**Opposed:** Larry, who noted his continued interest in additional review of turf-related source materials. Larry expressed support for the overall project, with his dissent limited to the inclusion of synthetic turf.

## Department Update

### Athletic Fields and Lighting

Brad Delisle provided an update on athletic field operations, including:

- lighting adjustments at Gatchell’s
- scheduled on-site light aiming with coaches on Tuesday, April 14
- neighbor concerns regarding brightness
- continued field preparation and seasonal fertilization
- positive feedback regarding field conditions
- ongoing fence and maintenance needs

### Stramski House ADA Ramp / Tree Hearing

The Commission reviewed the required public shade tree hearing process associated with tree removal for the future ADA-accessible ramp project at Stramski House.

Consensus supported moving forward with the hearing process so approvals are in place for the next construction phase.

**Action:** Jaime will coordinate with Tree Warden John to initiate the public hearing process.

### Field Lining Robot

Brad updated the Commission on a robotic field lining machine demonstration. Discussion included:

- annual paint costs
- software and warranty
- possible lease-to-own options
- labor savings
- potential long-term efficiency improvements

Additional information and quotes will be gathered.

### Gatchell’s Missing Benches

The Commission discussed the unexplained removal of three benches at Gatchell’s, with staff continuing to investigate possible camera footage and historical imagery.

### ADA Grant Opportunity

The Commission reviewed a potential ADA grant opportunity opening May 1, 2026 and due June 12, 2026, with available funding up to \$250,000.

Potential project sites discussed included:

- Chandler Hovey
- Castle Rock
- Crocker Park
- Gatchell's
- Community Center
- Reed's Pond

Commissioners will continue reviewing priorities for discussion at the next meeting.

### **Budget and Override Update**

Jaime provided an update on the override tier reallocation request, maintaining the same total funding amount while adjusting allocations to better support utilities, maintenance, and material needs.

### **Skate Park Update**

Jaime reported on a follow-up meeting with Noah, who remains interested in pursuing a future skate park initiative.

The Commission expressed support for continued exploration, though no site or funding source has been identified.

### **Beach Gator Replacement**

The Commission reviewed the need to replace the department's beach gator, which is at the end of its useful life.

Brad obtained three quotes, including one with a \$4,000 trade-in allowance. The current gator must first be declared surplus by the Select Board at its April 22, 2026 meeting.

**Motion:** Larry moved to approve the purchase of a replacement gator using beach revenue funds, contingent upon the current gator being declared surplus and all procurement requirements being met.

**Second:** Karin seconded.

**Vote:** Approved unanimously.

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## **Next Meeting**

Next meeting: **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**