

Recreation & Parks

June 16, 2026, 9:00 AM

Community Center

Attendance: Karin Ernst, Larry Simpson, Shelly Bedrossian, Chris Kennedy, Mike McCarthy.

Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM.

Reorganization of the Commission

- Shelly will be the chair for this meeting.
- Motion to make Shelly chair of the Recreation and Parks Commission.
 - Discussion: Shelly's work on Reynolds may not be good for a balance of power for the group, as well as creating a significant workload. Larry felt that Shelly is most qualified to be the chair. Shelly believes the best move is to make Karin the chair and Shelly the vice chair, which would allow her to continue to spend time on Reynolds and hold a leadership position. Karin's experience makes her a good fit for the chair.
- Shelly amended the motion to make Karin the chair. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- Motion to make Shelly the vice chair. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- Motion to appoint Jaime Bloch as Superintendent of Recreation and Parks. Seconded. All in favor, the motion passes.
- Working Groups:
 - Discussion about the advantages of operationalizing as much as possible, such as field allocation.
 - Last year's working groups: Racquet Sports, Dog Park (Karin), Passive Parks (Larry & Rossana), School Liaison (Chair & Vice Chair), Sustainability (Larry), Reynolds (Chris & Shelly), FinCom Rep (Chair & Vice Chair), Beach Policies (Chris & Karin), Memorial Policy (Larry & Karin), Personnel Evaluation, Bike More, Stramski, Building Use, Field Allocation
 - Discussion on which groups are no longer necessary:
 - Personnel Evaluation was never used.
 - Bike More is set up and no longer needs anything policy-wise.
 - Field Allocation is largely operationalized; we can eliminate the working group, but restructure it as formal public meetings. It would be beneficial to meet about improvements or items beyond the scope of day-to-day operations.
 - Building Use: CoA and Recreation & Parks now meet monthly, and a group is no longer needed.
 - Stramski: It is still important to have full commission involvement even though the project is nearing completion. We will end the working group, but all decisions and discussions will be done as a commission.
 - Discussion: Should Passive Parks, Sustainability, and Beautification be rolled into one group? They represent three different ideas. Potential name changes: Park Stewardship, Park Enhancement?

- This year's groups, not counting FinCom Rep and School Liaison: Memorials (Larry & Mike), Beaches (Chris & Mike), Reynolds (Shelly & Chris), Sustainability (Larry & Chris), Dog Park (Karin & Mike), Racquet Sports (Karin & Shelly), Park Beautification (Larry & Chris), and ADA Compliance (Shelly & Karin).

Recreation and Parks Department Updates

- **Pickleball Courts:**
 - Jaime would like to make changes to pickleball courts at Vets for the upcoming season. Saturdays it will be 9 to 4, Sundays 10 to 4. Historically, when school is out of session it has been 9 to 5 on Monday through Friday. Jaime proposes shifting to 9:30 to 5:30 due to staff availability to lock the courts.
- **Board of Health Initiative:**
 - Shelly met with Tom McMahon and Tom Massaro from the Board of Health regarding a national fitness campaign initiative that uses outdoor, weather-independent workout facilities. They wanted to know what parks would be available to put them in. They are not at a decision-making stage yet and just wanted to know of two or three spots that they could keep in mind.
 - Shelly recommended Seaside; remove the rebound wall and extend the asphalt. Further discussion is needed before taking out the wall. It could also be moved inside a court.
- **Bocce Courts:**
 - Discussion of future plans for the bocce courts; the department needs to learn how the courts are utilized and how to care for them. The department hopes in the future to share use with the CoA and introduce family play, league play, etc.

The next meeting will be on Monday, June 22 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 10:18 AM.

Minutes taken by Mary Herchenhahn