MINUTES
PARKS & TREES COMMISSION
September 9, 2026

1. Chair Bradley called the meeting to order at 5:13pm in the City Hall Council Chambers.
2. Roll Call:

   Present: Bradley, LaDuke, Redder,

   Excused: Nieuwenhuis, Lakamper, Green, Pickett

3. Approval of Minutes:

   A motion by LaDuke, seconded by Redder, to accept and place on file the Parks & Trees Meeting Minutes of the August 11, 2026 regular meeting. On a voice vote all voted in favor. The motion passed.

4. Public Comments: **None**

5. Chairperson's Report:

   Chair Bradley brought a suggestion to the Commission from Terry Pickett, to meet at Kenyon Park for October's P&T meeting. Cory mentioned that this had been discussed in the past. The idea would be to meet (weather permitting) at a park that we might decide should be highlighted for the month. Bunny also mentioned Sherwood Park as a good meeting place as well. Sherwood Park is normally busy, and it might attract curious citizens to come and ask questions and make "public" comments. It was agreed that this idea would work better in warmer months, but **we decided to meet at Kenyon Park in October**.

6. Park Reports:

   General Update – No report.

   Sherwood Park Maintenance Report – Cory and Matthew report that it is in good shape being well used. Cory raised questions about the exercise equipment and how much it is being used, would there be a better location with regard to privacy. No one likes to be watched while they're exercising. Although that also raises the question of safety/security. Kenyon Park?

   Pell Park Maintenance Report – Bunny reports that it is gorgeous. Many of the plants in and around Pell Park are now perennials, and "boy, what a difference!" The paint job on the railings is getting rave reviews. We're waiting for the rest of the (brown) rails to be finished as well.

   Hicks Park Maintenance Report – Matthew reports that although the boardwalks need work, Hicks Park continues to be a great gathering spot for those seeking shade and serenity along the race. It's quite the popular spot on Thursdays during the farmers' market time.

   Thurl-Cook Park Maintenance Report – Cory reports that the park looks good, especially with the new playground equipment. Kids are playing on it already. They've got sprinklers out and grass seed going. The pathway is in rough shape, but the DPW is working on it all. Cory asked, "Is there a new sign or has the old one been painted and spruced up?" It would be nice to see the pavilion get an upgrade sometime soon.

Kenyon Park Maintenance Report – Reported that the nature trail on the North end of Kenyon Park is being cleared out and could be ready by mid to late Fall. Rocket Football continues to use it. We've decided to hold our October P&T meeting at Kenyon Park's Pavilion.

Darrow Park Maintenance Report – Bunny reports that not much is going on there. There needs to be something done about the walkway down to the dock. It is treacherous.

Riverwalk, Band Shell, & CBD Maintenance Report – Cory reports that the boardwalk from the Bandshell to the Main St Bridge is in need of repair, as the bike barrier gates have fallen into disrepair. Bunny reported that the Purple Loose Strife (invasive/illegal) has been removed. Matthew reported that the overhead lights in the bandshell need to be cleared of birds' nests.

7. Recommendations and Reports:
   A. Master Plan – Review and Discussion **Tabled** until November 11 with request for Justin to provide A/V for presentation.

   B. Recreation Plan – Review and Discussion **Tabled** until November 11 with request for Justin to provide A/V for presentation.

   C. Chapter 15: Parks & Tree Commission from the Code of Ordinances – **Approve Final Amendment Tabled** until October 14.

   D. Volunteer Tree Planting Day- October 10, 2026 – Date has been set and the volunteer list is building through the PCS HS, MS, and Renaissance students working toward community service hours.

8. Public Comments: **None**

9. Staff Comments: **None**

10. Commissioners' Comments: **None**

11. Adjournment:

A motion by Cory, seconded by Bunny, to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 pm. On a voice vote all were in favor. The motion passed.

Next Meeting: **At Kenyon Park Pavilion** Wednesday, October 14, 2026, at 5:00 pm

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by: Matthew Bradley