

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
May 21, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners was held on this day at 950 Eden Park Drive. Commissioners present: President Molly North, Vice President Kick Lee, Commissioner Susan Castellini, Commissioner Phyllis McCallum, and Commissioner John Neyer. President North called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

There were no in-person public comments. President North acknowledged public comments received via email regarding Piatt Park, the Canada geese population, and Burnet Woods.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Approval of the April 16 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION / UPDATES

Clifton Deer Program Update

Laurie Briggs of CliftonDeer.org, the volunteer led organization that runs the Clifton Deer Program, presented an update on their non-lethal deer fertility control research project that has been operating in Clifton since 2013. Ms. Briggs reported on methodology, data collection, key partnerships, operating costs, and the ongoing success, viability, and potential for expansion of the program.

Urban Forestry Update

Division Manager of Natural Resources Crystal Courtney, along with Urban Forestry Supervisor Garrett Dienno and Maintenance Crew Leader Jake Edwards, shared an update on the current staffing structure, training focus, recent accomplishments, and cost savings realized as a result of shifting more tree work to in-house Urban Forestry crews, as opposed to a heavy reliance on outside contractors. The Commissioners and Staff discussed the importance of considering salaries when determining whether to rely on internal staff versus outside contractors.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of First Amendment to the MOU between the City of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, and the Cincinnati Board of Park Commissioners

Parks Director Jason Barron presented a proposed amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding that governs the relationship between the City, Parks, and the Parks Foundation. This amendment would allow the Foundation to cover expenses for services as well as travel by a City employee related to a Foundation event. Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve the amendment to the MOU. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Planning & Design Action Items

Travis Miller, Division Manager of Planning & Design, presented the following action items:

- **Everybody's Treehouse Change Order** – Staff requested approval of a change order to the Megen contract, to include replacement of the roof and 8 railing posts, in the amount of \$61,566.36, with an additional \$5,000 contingency allowance.
- **Ault Park Plumbing Repairs Change Order** – Staff requested approval of a change order in the amount of \$64,688.43, with a contingency allowance of \$10,000, to complete repairs to the Principio comfort station.
- **Burnet Woods Repaving** – Staff requested approval of \$118,940, with a contingency allowance of \$10,000, to proceed with repaving portions of Burnet Woods Drive.

Vice President Lee motioned to approve the Planning & Design action items as outlined. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION / UPDATES

Planning & Design Update

Division Manager Miller provided an update on the development framework for the Inwood Park master plan, including project goals, plans for stakeholder engagement, and the City's Request for Proposals process. The Commissioners and Staff discussed an outstanding community request for a basketball court at Inwood. Staff also provided updates on McEvoy Park planning, Central Avenue maintenance facility upgrades, and community engagement on a shelter solution at Nelson Sayler Memorial Park.

Finance / IT Division Highlights

Parks CFO, Herta Fairbanks, provided an update on end of fiscal year activities and fund balances, as well as major projects recently completed by Parks' IT team.

HR Update

Supervising HR Analyst, Derrick Gentry, shared an update on full time and part time employee numbers, key job postings, and an analysis of Parks' HR staffing structure, job duties, and goals.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Barron presented the following updates:

- Krohn's Butterfly Show, *Destination Monarch*, is open and runs through August 9.
- Parks kicked off the season with a spring All Staff celebration on April 23.
- Parks' East Operations staff reunited a lost dog with its owner.
- Parks held a community engagement session for the Owl's Nest Park renovation.
- Arbor Day events took place at Rothenberg Preparatory Academy and at Smale.
- Baby coyotes were spotted by a hiker in California Woods.
- Events throughout Parks in late May and early June.
- Parks' Mt. Airy Elementary Adopt a Class team was awarded Civil Service Team of the Year at the Adopt a Class Celebration Breakfast.
- Parks once again ranked in the Top 10 cities in the nation in the Trust for Public Land's annual ParkScore Ranking, coming in at number 5.

OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

President North expressed her support for 3CDC and their pursuit of public dollars for reinvestment in the North CBD district, including Piatt Park. President North also stated that any perceived opposition to providing resources to people with needs in Piatt Park is unfounded. Commissioner McCallum thanked Director Barron for his participation in a recent Downtown Residents' Council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

President North adjourned the meeting at 11:03am.

The next regular meeting date is Thursday, June 18, at 9:00am.

ATTEST:

VICE PRESIDENT

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'John Doe', written over a horizontal line.

DIRECTOR

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. Barron', written over a horizontal line.

[External Email] Public Comment May 2025

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Sat 4/18/2026 6:28 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>; #COUNCIL <CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear City Leaders and Park Commissioners,

I am writing in opposition to 3CDC take over of Piatt Park.

Please protect our public assets.

Stop wasting money on pet projects and maintain what we have!

Our shared inheritance from people who prioritized the protection of greenspace.

Your inability to prioritize for the care and upkeep of our Parks doesn't give you the right to turn our Parks over to the hands of developers.

Sincerely,

Shari Frost

[External Email] Inquiry Regarding Nuisance Canada Geese Management in Cincinnati Parks

From Dayton Hendricks <h.dayton55@gmail.com>
Date Thu 4/23/2026 12:13 PM
To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Cc Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>

You don't often get email from h.dayton55@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

External Email Communication

Dear City of Cincinnati Park Board,

I would appreciate this being included in the public record or shared with the Board of Park Commissioners.

I'm writing to express my concern about the increasing presence of resident Canada geese in Cincinnati city parks and the negative impact they're having on park usability and public experience.

In several parks, geese have become aggressive towards visitors, and the volume of droppings in high-traffic areas has created persistent sanitation concerns.

I understand that the city has established strategies for managing nuisance wildlife like deer. I wanted to inquire if there are any current or planned strategies for addressing the resident goose population.

Specifically, I'm interested in:

- Whether the Park Board has an active management plan for nuisance geese.
- What methods are currently being used or considered (e.g., habitat modification, egg addling, controlled removal).
- Whether additional measures are being evaluated to improve park conditions for public use.

I appreciate that wildlife management in public spaces requires balancing safety, regulations, and public interest. My intention is simply to better understand how this issue is being addressed and whether further action is being considered.

Thank you for your time and for your work maintaining Cincinnati's parks.

Sincerely,
Dayton Hendricks
(513)302-4360

[External Email] Public Comment May 2026

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>
Date Sat 5/2/2026 1:09 PM
To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Board of Commissioners,

Please prioritize retrofitting the older structures in our Parks with an eye towards ADA accessibility. In Burnet Woods, we are appreciative that you are earmarking funds for the Bandstand roof repair, and we are hopeful that we can get a community conversation started about the most feasible solution to solve accessibility barriers to this beloved feature.

We have Park Staff who are qualified to create something both esthetically pleasing to the historical nature of the Bandstand while still providing access for park visitors and musicians unable to use the staircase.

The staircase really would be safer with the addition of nice handrails that would also tie into the existing design of what we already have.

Please consider adding this request in the queue.

If community fundraising is needed, let's discuss how to get the ball rolling.

Sincerely,

Shari Frost

Burnet Woods Volunteer

Adding an attachment where another city prioritized accessibility in their community and serves as a reminder to do the same



Amy Delgado 

 substack

Apr 23

It's rare, but refreshing and welcome when the world sees us, uniquely, and has intentionally planned for us.

“

In a world where the accessible route is usually a side door or a clunky lift, this was a pleasant and welcome surprise—a rare moment where the world felt like it was leaning in to say, “Hey... we thought of you, and we want you here.”

Amy Delgado

