

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS

June 18, 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: Vice President Kick Lee, Commissioner Susan Castellini, Commissioner Phyllis McCallum, and Commissioner John Neyer. President Molly North was not present. Vice President Lee called the meeting to order at 9:01am.

Acknowledgement of Public Comments

Vice President Lee acknowledged one in-person public comment proposing additional statues at Ezzard Charles Park. Vice President Lee also acknowledged two public comments received via email.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS

Approval of the May 21 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner McCallum motioned to approve the May 21, 2026, meeting minutes. Commissioner Neyer seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

ACTION ITEM

Central Avenue Maintenance Facility Renovation

Division Manager of Planning & Design, Travis Miller, shared an overview of plans to renovate an existing Parks facility at 1221 Central Avenue, to be utilized for fleet maintenance. Staff requested approval to proceed with a contract with MegenWorks for design services in the amount of \$78,275, with an additional 10% for contingency. Commissioner Neyer motioned to approve a total amount of \$86,102.50 to proceed with the contract. Commissioner Castellini seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

INFORMATION / UPDATES

Planning & Design Update

Division Manager Miller provided an update on pavement work at Sawyer Point, specifically in the Kroger promenade area. The restoration work replaced critical sections of pavement that showed significant wear. Staff also updated the Commissioners on repairs Everybody's Treehouse in Mt. Airy Forest.

Parks Improvement Projects 3-Year Plan Update

Division Manager Miller and Parks Director, Jason Barron, shared an updated Parks Improvement Projects 3-Year Plan. The Commissioners and Staff discussed additions to the Active Projects section such as the California Woods Shelter, the Krohn Conservatory Historic Structure Report, and the Riverfront Boat Dock, as well as the timeline for the Glenway Park Renovations & Playground.

Finance / IT Division Highlights

Parks CFO, Herta Fairbanks, provided an update on end of fiscal year activities and deadlines, fund balances, and let the Commissioners know that financial reports might not be available for next month's meeting due to the annual year-end CFS shutdown.

HR Update

Director Barron gave an overview of full-time and part-time staff numbers, job postings, and vacancies, and highlighted HR's current focus on summer employment safety.

ACTION ITEM

Grants Application / Acceptance

Director Barron outlined three grant opportunities:

- American Heart Association: Cardiac Emergency Response Plan - \$17,500
 - To be used for the adoption of a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan and development of a Cardiac Emergency Response Team at Parks
- American Trails: Cincinnati Conservation Stewardship Program - \$15,000
 - To be used to provide funding for staff training and the development of a volunteer trail stewardship program.
- ODNR NatureWorks: Sawyer Point Playground - \$150,000
 - To be used towards the replacement of the 1000 Hands Playground

Commissioner Castellini motioned to approve the application for and acceptance of grant funds from the American Heart Association, American Trails, and ODNR in a total amount up to \$182,500. Commissioner McCallum seconded. The motion passed by a unanimous voice vote.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Director Barron presented the following updates:

- The Urban Forestry team has been working hard to grind a citywide backlog of approximately 1,400 tree stumps.
- Parks Administration team refreshed the landscaping at 950 Eden Park with plantings designed by Horticulturalist Marie Songer.
- The Castle of Air at International Friendship Park has a new sign thanks to a generous donation from Neil Bortz of Towne Properties.
- The riverfront flag display at International Friendship Park now includes 18 American flags and all 193 United Nations members' flags.
- Events throughout Parks in late June and early July.

OPEN COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION & COMMENTS

Commissioner Neyer thanked the Urban Forestry staff for their quick response to the previous evening's storm.

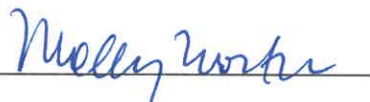
ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Lee adjourned the meeting at 9:48am.

The next regular meeting date is Thursday, July 16, at 9:00am.

ATTEST:

PRESIDENT



DIRECTOR



[External Email] Public Comment 6/18- Inwood Park Blight

From Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Date Tue 6/16/2026 9:26 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc #COUNCIL <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>;
CityManagerEmail <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Attention to the Commissioners -

It seemed an embarrassing gaffe at the May Park Board meeting for the Parks Commissioners and Director to discuss the Inwood Park basketball court site as if it did not exist. The basketball court does exist. It was left incomplete with a poorly managed chain link construction fence that allowed the site to become a blight on the community and evidence of mismanagement of Park funds/land. I have written to you about it, with photos, several times.

Despite the Director's assertion to the current Board that the basketball court is not important to the community, prior Commissioners were very clear at the time pieces of Inwood Park were sold for development that the court IS important to the community. Moving the courts were part of the compromise to gain favorable votes for the sale. Parks sold the land and reneged on their word.

It sounds like the Director is teeing up another sale of Inwood Park land by now claiming the courts aren't wanted after taking zero responsibility for the blighted, unusable condition PARKS abandoned the site to be.

Cynthia Duval

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From: Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, 10 June 2025 18:26:31

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc: daniel.betts@cincinnati-oh.gov <daniel.betts@cincinnati-oh.gov>; citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Subject: Public Comment 6/20- Inwood Park Blight

Visited this site again today and noted there has been zero effort made, since last email, to improve the eyesore that this construction site has become for the residents surrounding this park. Inwood Park has a large community event in early July and this is gross negligence.

From: Cynthia Duval <cynthia_lough@hotmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2025 9:39:31 PM

To: Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Cc: daniel.betts@cincinnati-oh.gov <daniel.betts@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityCouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov <citycouncil@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Aftab, Mayor <mayor.aftab@cincinnati-oh.gov>; CityManager@cincinnati-oh.gov <citymanager@cincinnati-oh.gov>

Subject: Public Comment 5/15 - Inwood Park

I would like to share with Commissioners photographs of the current state of Inwood Park's basketball court construction. The Commissioners will be able to find in prior meetings about Inwood Park's property sale and renovation the emphasis placed by fmr. Commissioners Goetz and Thomas on the importance of the basketball courts to the community.

As it stands two(?) years later, the construction site is unsecured and appears abandoned in an unfinished state. There is only one hoop. Fencing construction banners are removed and the gates are wide open. Two couches and shopping carts have been discarded. The site is unusable.

The message in action to the community, while closed door planning meetings supposedly continue, is that Cincinnati Parks does not care about this eyesore they've created in this highly visible location now that they've profited from the sale of part of the park to a fellow developer. Is whatever endless planning that is taking place going to move the half- built basketball courts? Why can't this project be completed or at least cleaned up to not appear as a blight? Additional photo of the lake at Inwood included and its condition on the same day. Please let come to mind how many times each year Mirror Lake is drained and scrubbed when you view this and consider the disturbing disparity in equitable maintenance between the two parks. What part of Inwood Park are the Commissioners planning to sell next?

Cynthia Duval

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[External Email] Public Comment June 2026

From Stich Bear <stichbear@gmail.com>

Date Tue 6/16/2026 10:04 PM

To Parks, Cincy <cincy.parks@cincinnati-oh.gov>

External Email Communication

Dear Park Board,

First, the improvements to the grill area at the circle shelter just past Everybody's Treehouse in Mt. Airy are greatly appreciated, along with the wheelchair accessible picnic table in the space.

Second, the plantings surrounding the pavilion in Mount Echo look amazing. We did notice during a rainstorm that the new gutter on the side facing the city wasn't working properly, but the lights and renovations to the structure are greatly appreciated and being enjoyed by all. The ramp with handrails and wheelchair access makes the space welcoming to our community.

Third, the stone stair repair in Burnet Woods was sorely needed. We hope it holds up.

Fourth, please keep the basketball courts at Inwood.

Fifth, please follow best practices in public engagement before making big changes to our public parks. Public trust has been broken in recent years and we would like to trust that you will prioritize conservation efforts over hardscape development in our greenspaces. It would have been nice to have had the large sum of money that was spent on an unpopular dog park in Burnet Woods to put towards purchasing the woodland beside Mt. Storm. The community is still very salty over the unilateral decision to pave one of the few accessible greenspaces in Burnet Woods and now with your unilateral decision to turn control of Piatt Park over to 3CDC again without community involvement.

Sincerely,

Shari Frost