

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION
April 21, 2026

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held with the following Commissioners present: Messrs. West. Mmes. Rich and Bolton. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Williams, Nuss, Swift, Stewart, Sanders, and Jones. Messrs. Higby, Benjamin, Phillips, Lubbers, Heyl, and Ford.

Commissioner Rich called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Election of the President

- **Nomination:**
 - Commissioner Bolton nominated Commissioner Rich for President.
 - No other nominations were received.
- **Motion:**
 - Motion was made by Commissioner Bolton to elect Commissioner Rich as President, and seconded by Commissioner West.

Result:

- Motion carried, Leslie Rich was elected President.

Election of the Vice President

- **Nomination(s):**
 - Commissioner Bolton nominated Commissioner Lee for Vice President.
 - No other nominations were received.
- **Motion:**
 - Motion was made by Commissioner Bolton to elect Commissioner Lee as Vice President and seconded by Commissioner West.

Result:

- Motion carried, Kick Lee was elected Vice President.

PRESENTATION

None

INTRODUCTIONS

Brien Phillips – Division Manager, CFO

RETIREMENTS

None

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

None

MINUTES

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve the March 17th, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Bolton made the motion to accept the minutes, and Commissioner Rich seconded. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

None

DIRECTORS REPORT

HUMAN RESOURCES

April Jones provided an update on the vacancy report. We are ready to begin interviews for the HR Analyst position.

FINANCE UPDATE

Austin Lubbers and Brien Phillips provided a general finance update. We recently submitted an ordinance request to transfer \$100K from the old capital account to the new account for pool furniture. The FAO has been submitted and should be approved next month.

RECREATION OPERATIONS UPDATE

Brandi Sanders provided an update on Recreation Operations. She reviewed current participation numbers for after-school programs and summer day camps. The SWISH program has concluded its season, with championship games held on Friday. A total of 190 youth participated in mentorship and basketball activities, and each participant received a pair of gym shoes. CRC NFL Flag Football continues Sundays, with three games played this past Saturday and approximately 200 youth participants overall. Games are held on Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Walnut Hills. The Madisonville Senior Citizen Financial Awareness Symposium was successfully held, with 75 seniors in attendance. Looking ahead, Saturday Hoops will expand to include Bond Hill this summer. Planning for Rec @ Nite is currently underway, and final vendor selections are being completed. The Summer in Cincy press conference is scheduled for May 6, when additional details will be announced. An After-School Bash, in partnership with Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS), is scheduled for May 30 at Evanston.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING - CAPITAL PROJECTS (UPDATE)

Maddi Nuss updated the Commission on the major capital projects underway currently:

- **Rec Center Signs:** Bush Recreation Center received a new rec center sign. Signs for Lincoln, Bond Hill, and Millvale are currently in fabrication. North Avondale will be next once the location is determined.
- **Building Roofs:** Millvale roof construction is underway through May 2026. Corryville's roof is currently in design. Winton Hills gym roof renovation is planned for 2027.
- **Evanston Shelter:** Final close-out and amenity work are underway. The opening ceremony is tentatively planned for mid-May.

- **Dyer Spray Ground:** Construction contract with PRUS has been approved. The spray ground will open for the 2026 season, then construction will begin in September 2026 for planned 2027 improvements.
- **Camp Washington:** Construction began on April 3, 2026, and is anticipated to be completed in Fall 2026.
- **Dunham Recreation Center Renovation:** A feasibility study was completed, including an initial project assessment, design massing plan, drone footage review, and evaluation of adding a full-size gymnasium. MSA is moving forward with a contract amendment for the design phase, which will include community engagement and is expected to take approximately 9–12 months. Construction bidding will follow. Current funding totals approximately \$2 million for design and partial construction, with an additional \$4.5 million requested for Fiscal Year 2027. Additional Fiscal Year 2028 funding needs will be determined through the assessment and design process.
 - **Feasibility Findings:** Estimated renovation costs are between \$10–14 million. Proposed plans include gym expansion, restroom renovations, and approximately 38 additional parking spaces at the front of the building. MSA is beginning a more in-depth MEP analysis and building scans to support the design process.
- **Oskamp Improvements:** A new drinking fountain was installed near the tennis courts. Existing tennis courts are scheduled to receive a new color coating and practice board this summer. A new accessible playground is in design and anticipated for summer/fall installation, including shaded picnic areas, a climbing structure, and soft-surface play areas. Traffic calming improvements are also planned along Glenway Avenue this summer. Additional amenity improvements are expected to move into design in the coming weeks.
- **Dyer Spray Ground Renovation Details:** Planned improvements include ADA restroom renovations, removal of showers, shaded play areas for ages 2–5 and 5+, and a colorful space theme while maintaining the existing square footage. Total project cost is approximately \$2.78 million, with Community Development funding of \$722,700.
- **Winton Hills:** Staff is finalizing the scope for the Community Fund project. Improvements include repaving the parking lot, installing a new bike repair station, painting interior rooms, and completing room separation work by maintenance staff. Additional updates are expected in the coming months.
- **Bush Pool:** Concrete repair work is planned in preparation for the 2026 pool season at an estimated cost of \$238,000.
- **Lincoln Pool:** Construction is in progress to address a piping issue in preparation for the 2026 season at an estimated cost of \$52,000.
- **Madisonville Pool:** MSA has been contracted as the design firm. Existing pool piping repairs have been completed, and testing is pending favorable weather conditions.
- **Playgrounds:** Grant matching funds of up to \$500,000 are being utilized for playground projects at Oskamp, North Fairmount, College Hill Recreation Area, Park & Myrtle, and Burnet. Staff will provide updated designs and estimated installation timelines at future meetings.

COMMISSION BOARD COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES:

BUDGET AND FINANCE UPDATE

Budget and Finance did not meet this month.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Bolton provided an update, and several documents are pending approval.

OLD BUSINESS

7.a Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval of the Director's Evaluation SOP

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve the Director's Evaluation SOP. Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve the budget, and Commissioner Bolton seconded it; the motion carried.

7.b Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval of the Participant Code of Conduct

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve the Participant Code of Conduct. Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve the Participant Code of Conduct, and Commissioner Bolton seconded it; the motion carried.

7.c Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval of ADM-22 Department Vehicle Use Policy

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve the ADM-22 Department Vehicle Use Policy. Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve the ADM-22 Department Vehicle Use Policy, and Commissioner Bolton seconded it; the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

8.a Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval to remove PFO-4 Passenger Vans

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to remove PFO-4 Passenger Vans. Commissioner Lee made a motion to remove PFO-4 Passenger Vans, and Commissioner Bolton seconded it; the motion carried.

8.b Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval to remove PFO-5 Personal Vehicles.

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to remove PFO-5 Personal Vehicles. Commissioner Lee made a motion to remove PFO-5 Personal Vehicles, and Commissioner Bolton seconded it; the motion carried.

8.c Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval to remove PFO-6 Security of Doors

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to remove PFO-6 Security of Doors. Commissioner Lee made a motion to remove PFO-6 Security of Doors, and Commissioner Bolton seconded it; the motion carried.

8.d Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval to remove PFO-19 Trips Outside of Hamilton County.

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to remove PFO-19 Trips Outside of Hamilton County.

Commissioner Lee made a motion to remove PFO-19 Trips Outside of Hamilton County, and

Commissioner Bolton seconded it; the motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

4:44- 5:39 PM

Board Action:

The Board considered disciplinary action against the following employees:

Christopher Huff

Charge: Failure of Good Behavior

Recommended Penalty: 40-hour suspension

Approved Penalty: 40-hour suspension

Commissioner Rich motioned to accept the recommendation of the Human Resources and the Hearing Officer for a Penalty of a 40-hour suspension. Rollcall: Commissioner Rich-Yes, Commissioner Bolton – Yes, Commissioner West – Yes. The motion carried. Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:51 PM

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on May 17, 2026, at the North Avondale Recreation Center.

Leslie M. Rich, President

Daniel E. Betts, Director

/ss Minutes prepared by Sonya Swift