THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION
June 16, 2026

The regular meeting of the Public Recreation Commission was held with the following Commissioners present: Messrs. West and Lee. Mmes. Rich and Bolton. Staff in attendance: Mmes. Williams, Chappel, Stewart, Swift, Grace, Anderson, Webb, Nuss, and Jones. Messrs. Higby, Benjamin, Sommer, Phillips, Hibbard, Kremmer, Heyl, Pike, and Ford.

Commissioner Rich called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

PRESENTATION
None

INTRODUCTIONS
Aleese Willis, Administrative Technician (Community Liaison and Resource Coordinator)

RETIREMENTS
None

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
None

MINUTES
Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve April 21st, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Bolton made the motion to accept the minutes, and Commissioner West seconded. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
None

CORRESPONDENCE
None

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS
CRC Summer Kickoff Success. Tim Hely.

DIRECTORS REPORT

HUMAN RESOURCES
April Jones provided an update on the vacancy report. Three Community Center Director (CCD) positions and the Service Area Coordinator (SAC) – Special Events position have been approved for posting. In addition, the Clerk Typist 3 and Division Manager of Planning positions have been approved for posting.

FINANCE UPDATE
Brien Phillips provided a general Finance update, noting that the department is wrapping up fiscal year-end activities while simultaneously preparing for Fiscal Year 2027. He discussed the challenges of closing the fiscal year during CRC's busiest operational season.

Mr. Phillips also shared that the Finance staff have been visiting recreation centers to review budgets, provide resources, and discuss fiscal responsibility with center staff. These visits are intended to strengthen financial understanding, improve collaboration between Finance and Recreation Staff, and build stronger working relationships across the department.

RECREATION OPERATIONS UPDATE

Tim Heyl provided a Recreation Operations update. Summer Day Camp is currently operating at 92% capacity, with most sites full and several maintaining waiting lists. He noted that Summer Day Camp staff training was highly successful, providing participants with a comprehensive week of preparation. Mr. Heyl reported strong attendance for the Rec @ Nite program, with 515 teens participating during the first weekend, including 257 attendees at Lincoln Recreation Center. During the second weekend, overall attendance reached 488 teens. The two new program sites have experienced a significant increase in participation, with attendance approximately doubling. Operations continue to run safely with the use of metal detectors, onsite security, and support from VOYC, which has been a valuable addition to the program team.

In Aquatics, staff successfully prepared the City's pools for the summer season. The department also certified 22 new Water Safety Instructors (WSIs) and enrolled 32 youth in the Junior Lifeguard Program, helping to build a strong pipeline of future lifeguards.

Tim provided an update on the Youth to Work (Y2WK) program, noting that additional promotion is needed to highlight its positive impact and the number of youth employed by CRC. He emphasized the importance of sharing positive stories about participating youth to help balance negative media coverage. Youth to Work training is scheduled for the following Tuesday and Wednesday at Cincinnati State. Currently, 155 youth are on the CRC payroll, with a goal of 165 participants and several additional hires still in the pipeline. The program also increased youth placements with the Park Board and placed two participants with Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS). The program operates with a $1.2 million budget, runs for nine weeks, and provides participants with 25 hours of work per week.

Tim also noted that CRC's National Junior Tennis & Learning (NJTL) and Aquatics programs provide additional employment opportunities for youth.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING - CAPITAL PROJECTS (UPDATE)

Kirby Sommer provided an update on several major capital projects currently underway throughout the park system.

Kirby reported that Motz is planning its annual Purpose Day on October 15, during which approximately 150 volunteers are expected to complete a variety of site improvement projects at Dunham Recreation Area.

Construction of the Mt. Airy Tennis Courts continues to progress. The project requires approximately one week of dry weather to complete the paving phase.

At Winton Hills Park, planning continues for the Reds Community Fund event scheduled for July 23.

Kirby also shared that FC Cincinnati plans to upgrade several mini pitches throughout the city this fall.

Projects Under Construction:

- 2022-24 Projects from the Recreation Special Activities Fund 323 for the purpose of providing resources ($1.5M) for improvements and renovations to recreation centers and outdoor recreation areas, security camera upgrades and installations at various sites and signage upgrades at various locations: $700k is budgeted for CRC center requested improvement projects. $350k is budgeted for security system improvements and $450k for signage throughout all CRC sites. The Planning and Development Division completed a signage inventory at each CRC site. New sign designs, created by CRC P&D staff, have been approved. ETS requested the scope be changed to install the same type of camera system as CPD. **UPDATE**: **Remaining funds are being used to finish up the signage projects at Rec Centers and continue with the security cameras. Bush Recreation Center received a new sign in March, Lincoln's was just completed, Bond Hill is to be installed in the coming weeks and Millvale is currently in fabrication.** North Avondale will be next once we need to identify a workable spot to get the new sign. The camera projects are in progress.
- As part of the 2025-26 capital budgets, improvements at various tennis and sport court hard surfaces improvements are being planned for 2026-27. Since the city term contract has been eliminated, all future projects of this type need to be bid out through the city procurement system. This increases the project schedule timeline significantly. **UPDATE**: Sport courts at Mt. Airy, College Hill, Daniels, and Schwarz are being scheduled for 2026-27. A proposed design to convert one of the Hartwell basketball courts to a hard surface futsal court is planned to start Summer-Fall 2026, this was requested by the community.

Projects in DEI and Purchasing:

- As part of the golf division funding proposal, a new Neumann clubhouse is being proposed. A proposed design and layout was developed by CRC staff. The RFP for the design-build contract is in progress. The current proposal is to construct a new clubhouse onsite and keep the existing one open until the new is complete. Funds to budget these projects were approved 9/5/24. **UPDATE**: Currently, in procurement to post RFP for Design-Build.
- As part of the golf division funding proposal, California Golf Clubhouse restrooms and kitchen renovations are planned. **UPDATE**: Updates to flooring, counters and walls completed. **Renovations are in final stage, Punchlist to be completed by the end of June**
- As part of proposed 2026-28 capital funding, the Madisonville Aquatic facility was selected by CRC staff to be renovated. The facility is in very poor condition and cannot be repaired without a major renovation. **UPDATE:** Project is contracted for Design with MSA and in final design contract procurement.

Projects in Design:

- As part of proposed 2026 and 2027 COT funding, CRC will be receiving funding for the renovation of the Dunham Recreation Center. CRC is studying what kind of space is needed. An RFQ for the full design is in progress and final submittal is due 10/21/25. A Feasibility Study completed beginning of April before the RFQ contract was completed. **UPDATE:** Scope of project TBD. Assessment work in progress, will amend contract for Design once Assessment is completed, MSA was chosen as the Design Firm for the project. Construction will be bid out after Design is completed. MSA and Motz are in the process of mapping and assessing current building conditions and will be doing some public engagement for their assessment and proposal into design.

- As part of the capital budget, design work for ADA access to the Riverside Sports Complex boat ramp restrooms, a new boat dock and connecting walking loop is in progress. The renovation is being designed by CRC staff. CRC did not receive the grant, ODNR recommends applying for it again when available. An RFP is in progress for the design work. The existing rolling dock is no longer usable; a new one has been constructed. The new rolling boat dock is complete and installed. **UPDATE:** With the grant being denied, the process to hire an A/E firm is in progress for restroom improvements. Design work was completed by Verdantas. Construction will be sent to bid once procurement reopens.
- Duke and CRC are working on a plan to relocate a storage structure and the gas pumps at California Golf course. Duke regulations do not allow these structures below the high voltage transmission lines. **UPDATE:** Meeting held 6/26/24 onsite, and again on 6/5/25 to approve the scope of work needed. Duke will provide the funding for the relocation. CRC and golf to coordinate the work. Plans are in progress.

COMMISSION BOARD COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES:

BUDGET AND FINANCE UPDATE
Commissioner Rich provided an update on Budget and Finance Committee. Spoke about Finance reports and the Golf budget that needs approval.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE
Commissioner Bolton provided an update, and several documents are pending approval.

OLD BUSINESS
None Currently

NEW BUSINESS

8.a Recommended Action
Board Approval
Background
Board approval of Hamilton County Air Monitoring System
Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve the Hamilton County Air Monitoring System once the Coordinated Report is approved. Commissioner Lee moved to approve the Hamilton County Air Monitoring System, and Commissioner Bolton seconded; the motion carried.

8.b Recommended Action
Board Approval
Background
Board approval to remove PFO-19 Trips Outside of Hamilton Co.
Commissioner Rich called for a motion to remove PFO-19 Trips Outside of Hamilton Co. Commissioner Bolton made a motion to remove PFO-19 Trips Outside of Hamilton Co, and Commissioner Wets seconded it; the motion carried.

8.c Recommended Action
Board Approval

Background

Board approval to remove PFO-2 Use of Community Centers by Out-of-Town Guests.
Commissioner Rich called for a motion to remove PFO-2 Use of Community Centers by Out-of-Town Guests. Commissioner Lee made a motion to PFO-2 Use of Community Centers by Out-of-Town Guests, and Commissioner Bolton seconded it; the motion carried.

8.d Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval of the Golf Division FY27 Budget.
Board approval to approve the Golf Division FY27 Budget. Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve the Golf Division FY27 Budget. Commissioner Lee moved to the Golf Division FY27 Budget, and Commissioner West seconded; the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on July 21, 2026, at the CRC Main Office.

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Leslie M. Rich, President

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Daniel E. Betts, Director

/ss Minutes prepared by Sonya Swift