

THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC RECREATION COMMISSION
July 21, 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, Swift, Stewart, Bolinger, Altman, and Jones. Messrs. Higby, Benjamin, Courtland, Ortiz, Sommer, Phillips, Heyl, Pike, Jamison, and Ford.

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

PRESENTATION

None

INTRODUCTIONS

Christian Ortiz, Human Resources Analyst

RETIREMENTS

None

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

None

MINUTES

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve the June 16, 2026, Regular Board Meeting minutes. Commissioner Bolton made the motion to accept the minutes, and Commissioner Lee seconded. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

CRC Marketing Team – Sophia Bolinger and Chris Pike

DIRECTORS REPORT

HUMAN RESOURCES

April Jones provided an update on the department's vacancy report. Second-round interviews for the Community Center Director (CCD) positions have been completed, and employment offers are expected to be extended soon. The Clerk Typist 3 position will be posted immediately. The Division Manager of Planning position has received several applications, which are being reviewed on a rolling basis so interviews can begin promptly once the posting closes.

FINANCE UPDATE

Brien Phillips provided a general Finance update. He reviewed the department's operating and capital funding accounts and reported that the Golf Division continues to exceed expectations, setting new revenue records. Brien also shared that the Cincinnati Financial System has successfully transitioned to Fiscal Year 2027 and is now fully operational.

RECREATION OPERATIONS UPDATE

Tim Heyl provided a Recreation Operations update. He reported that Rec @ Nite has two weeks remaining, with the Community Concert scheduled for August 1 and the Back-to-School Bash on August 8. He commended staff for their outstanding work in expanding the initiative from two recreation center sites to four, while strengthening partnerships with community organizations throughout the city. He also noted that the Queen City Slam basketball tournament will take place on August 8 at The Banks.

Tim shared that Summer Day Camp is currently in Week 6 and operating at approximately 90% capacity. Registration for the After School Day Camp program began in May, and several sites have already reached full capacity.

Commissioner Rich echoed Tim's remarks, recognizing the dedication and hard work of CRC staff in delivering successful summer programming and expanding opportunities for Cincinnati residents.

CRC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Director Betts provided an update on the CRC Climate Assessment, announcing that the final assessment had been received earlier that day. He shared that the report will be distributed to the Board of Commissioners for review, after which leadership will determine the appropriate process for sharing the assessment with all staff.

Director Betts emphasized that every survey response is being taken seriously and that CRC is committed to thoughtfully addressing the challenges and opportunities identified in the assessment. He stated that CRC leadership will meet next week to review the consultant's recommendations, discuss the development of an action plan, and determine the best approach for communicating and implementing that plan. As part of this process, leadership will also consider establishing a committee to address concerns and guide implementation efforts.

Director Betts clarified that the delay in receiving the final report was not due to any internal CRC process but rather to the consultant's timeline for completing the assessment.

He also highlighted the department's intentional efforts to maximize employee participation. CRC achieved approximately **60% of staff participation** by offering multiple opportunities for employees to provide feedback, including focus groups and digital and paper surveys. Director Betts noted that these efforts were designed to ensure that as many employee voices as possible were represented in the assessment findings.

DIRECTOR PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

President Rich informed the Board that he will be reaching out to each Commissioner to solicit feedback as part of Director Betts' upcoming annual performance evaluation. He noted that the Board intends to follow the evaluation process that was approved earlier this year to ensure a consistent and transparent review.

President Rich also shared that the Board would work collaboratively to establish Fiscal Year 2027 performance goals, defining clear expectations and success measures for the Director.

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING - CAPITAL PROJECTS (UPDATE)

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

He reminded Commissioners that the Reds Community Fund event is scheduled for Thursday, July 23, and encouraged everyone to attend, support the event, or join the celebration afterward.

Kirby also shared an update on the recent pool tours with Cincinnati City Council members at the Armleder facilities. The tours were well received, and Council members expressed enthusiasm about several ideas. The Planning team is currently evaluating those suggestions and will provide updates as planning progresses.

Construction of Camp Washington Skate Park is underway and remains on schedule for completion by the end of August. A grand opening celebration will be held following the completion of construction. CRC staff are currently coordinating the event date and logistics. Kirby noted that local skate park organizations are excited about the project and hope to use the grand opening to support future fundraising efforts.

Finally, Kirby reminded the Board about Motz's Community Service Day at Dunham Recreation Center on October 15, when approximately 150 volunteers are expected to complete a variety of park and facility improvement projects.

COMMISSION BOARD COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES:

BUDGET AND FINANCE UPDATE

Commissioner Rich provided an update from the Budget and Finance Committee. The committee discussed developing year-over-year (YOY) revenue charts for Recreation Operations to provide clearer trend analysis and improve consistency in financial reporting. The enhanced reporting format is intended to make revenue data easier to interpret, better demonstrate operational performance over time, and support decision-making by the Board and stakeholders.

GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Commissioner Bolton provided an update. They discussed PFO-12, ODPa Performance Agreement, and pet policy. Several documents are pending approval.

OLD BUSINESS

None Currently

NEW BUSINESS

9.a Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval of the ODPa FY27 Performance Agreement

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve the ODPa FY27 Performance Agreement.

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the ODPa FY27 Performance Agreement, and Commissioner Bolton seconded; the motion carried.

9.b Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval for the Property Acquisition – 3723 Beekman Street

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to approve the Property Acquisition – 3723 Beekman Street.

Commissioner Bolton moved to approve the Property Acquisition – 3723 Beekman Street, and Commissioner Lee seconded it; the motion carried.

9.c Recommended Action

Board Approval

Background

Board approval to revise PFO-12 – Recreation Center Memberships.

Commissioner Rich called for a motion to revise PFO-12 – Recreation Center Memberships.

Commissioner Lee moved to revise PFO-12 – Recreation Center Memberships, and Commissioner Bolton seconded; the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:19 PM

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING

The next meeting of the Public Recreation Commission will be held on August 18, 2026, at the CRC Main Office.

Leslie M. Rich, President

Daniel E. Betts, Director

/ss Minutes prepared by Sonya Swift