

Breezy Point Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes July 9, 2026, 5:00 PM

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 pm by Chair Arne.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the attendees.

Roll Call was conducted with members Gail Arne, Deanne Trottier and Diane Williams in attendance and Kimberly Slipy joining remotely. Megan Zierden was absent. Staff present included City Administrator Allie Polsfuss and Public Works Director Joe Zierden.

Approval Of Minutes

The May 14, 2026 meeting minutes were briefly reviewed.

A motion was made by Arne and seconded by Slipy to approve the May 14, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Parks Master Plan Phase 1 Priorities

Staff provided an overview, noting that the June 1 city council presentation of the master parks plan had been well received with positive feedback. The committee discussed the current 2026 capital parks budget of \$30,000, with staff proposing an increase to \$60,000 for 2027. A long-term goal of reaching a \$100,000 annual budget was mentioned, with the intent of eventually leveraging bonding to accelerate completion of the master plan. Staff also proposed adding \$10,000 to the operating budget annually for professional grant writing services through Jillian/Widseth, noting that the cost was a worthwhile investment given the potential to secure significant grant funding.

A question was raised regarding recently approved park dedication fees and whether those revenues factored into the budget. Staff clarified that park dedication funds are typically earmarked for purchasing tax-forfeited land, though they can be used for other parks-related purposes. The current balance in that account was estimated at approximately \$25,000–\$30,000 prior to a recent land purchase.

A brief discussion arose about whether the committee should restructure as a board rather than a committee, particularly as the budget grows. Staff noted that committees are recommending bodies without direct approval power, while commissions and boards carry more authority. It was generally agreed that a board structure would make more sense if the city eventually hired a full-time recreation coordinator, and that the distinction was largely semantic at the city's current size.

Regarding phase 1 priorities, it was noted that pickleball courts had been inadvertently omitted from the phase 1 cost estimate document due to an administrative error, as the concept plan had been updated after the estimates were prepared. Staff confirmed the pickleball court estimate was approximately \$270,000. One member expressed that pickleball courts and park trails were her top two priorities, noting that pickleball in particular is a facility the city currently lacks. It was also acknowledged that pickleball courts would require trail access, making the two items closely linked.

The committee discussed that the sequencing of construction work — such as tree removal, excavation, and trail routing — would largely be determined by staff and engineering rather than the committee, and that grant availability would also help dictate priorities. Staff confirmed they would reach out to Jillian after the preliminary budget is approved in early September to begin the grant writing process and explore what grants may be available and applicable in the near term.

A question was raised about the status of a potential 501(c)(3) organization that had been previously discussed. Staff indicated they were not prepared with an update but committed to following up on it.

Project Updates and Preliminary 2027 Projects

Staff reviewed the 2026 budget expenditures, noting that paving connecting the community garden to the existing trail network had recently been completed, new rule signage had been installed at key parks including the disc golf course parking lot, agar lime had been applied to the ball field, and two to three loads of wood chips had been added at a cost of approximately \$2,500. Staff noted that remaining 2026 budget would likely be consumed by continued signage work.

For 2027, staff noted that maintenance items such as trail washout repairs and rubber keypads at the disc golf course would be moved to the operating budget rather than the capital budget, reflecting a shift in how routine maintenance is handled going forward. The capital budget is intended to focus on master plan priorities for items over the \$5,000 threshold.

Staff also briefly mentioned ongoing discussions around GIS mapping for the city's parks and facilities. While no firm plans were in place, it was identified as a broader city direction being explored with the new city planner. A drone mapping update for the disc golf course was mentioned as something that had been looked into previously but set aside due to high costs.

Staff noted that city hall grounds would receive some maintenance work in the fall, including regrading to address drainage issues.

Committee Member Reports

One committee member reported that she had spoken with three pickleball community members who remained enthusiastic about the project. She noted the challenge of organizing fundraising efforts given that many interested parties are seasonal residents, and suggested a future public meeting could help gauge broader community interest among year-round residents.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Trottier and seconded by Williams to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 pm. The motion carried unanimously.