

BURLESON PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
MAY 14, 2026
MINUTES
DRAFT

ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Matt Quinn, Chair
Tyler Knox, Vice Chair
Shannan Sutter
Addison Oscarson
Miguel Angel Sanchez
Christian Schott
Sherry Scott
Ashli Logan

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Staff Present

Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation
Allison Smith, Deputy Director of Recreation
Dr. Jessie Farris, Urban Forester
Sarah Heath, Senior Administrative Specialist/Recording Secretary
Monica Solko, Deputy City Secretary

Guests

None.

1. **CALL TO ORDER** - Time 6:00 PM

Matt Quinn, Chair, called the meeting to order. **Time: 6:00 PM.**

2. **CITIZEN APPEARANCES**

None.

3. **GENERAL**

A. ~~Consider the minutes from the April 16, 2026 meeting. (Staff Contact: Sarah Heath, Senior Administrative Specialist)~~ - REMOVED

Monica Solko, Deputy City Secretary, requested that Item 3A be removed from the agenda until after upcoming training is completed. The City Secretary's Office will provide training to all Board, Commission and Committee liaisons on meeting procedures, including agendas, minutes, speakers, attendance, and Texas Open Meetings Act requirements. The meeting minutes will be brought back for consideration at the next meeting.

4. **REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS**

A. **Receive a report on the Junior Arborist (Trees for Tomorrow) program and associated participant data results. (Staff Contact: Dr. Jessie Farris, Urban Forester)**

Dr. Jessie Farris gave a report on the Trees for Tomorrow program, which provides students with hands-on environmental education and urban forestry awareness. Presentations were delivered to Environmental Science classes at Centennial and Burluson High Schools, as well as elementary students at The Academy at Nola Dunn, and students were surveyed post-program with an indication of strong program outcomes. The program also included participation in the City's Arbor Day event, where students assisted in planting trees as Junior Tree Stewards.

Board discussion reflected support of the program and support for future outreach to other schools with consideration for the grade level of the students, the school curriculum, and inclusion.

B. **Receive the April 2026 Department Update Presentation (Staff Contact: Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation)**

Allison Smith and Jen Basham provided a departmental update to the Board for the month of April. The presentation included:

- Attendance at recent special events and upcoming special events
- Attendance at April programs and athletics and upcoming June programs and athletics
- Attendance at April activities at Russell Farm Art Center and upcoming June activities at Russell Farm Art Center
- Next steps in development for the Russell Farm Master Plan
- An update to social media engagement in April
- Volunteer opportunities in May and June
- A comparison of BRiCk attendance and program participation in April across fiscal years
- An outline of the BRiCk's "We Want You Back" promotion
- A comparison of Hidden Creek Golf Course metrics for April and year-to-date as compared to previous years
- An update to capital projects: Shannon Creek, Warren Park Master Plan, Green Ribbon, and Legacy Park
- An update for Parks operations: forestry update, grant submissions, team updates, Oak Valley Trail striping, Hike and Bike Trail signage, services renewal, playground inspections, and graffiti abatement
- Recent events and metrics and upcoming events at Chisenhall Sports Complex

Staff will provide a future update to the Board on the BRiCK's "We Want You Back" promotion feedback.

Board members discussed public safety concerns related to electronic motorcycles and scooters within parks. Board members expressed interest in ensuring safe access and use of the facilities and addressing parking issues. Staff advised that updates will be provided regarding any Parks-related direction issued by the department of Public Safety.

Board discussion reflected support for exploring data on attraction to golf courses.

Board discussion acknowledged the challenge of managing the entry to parking at Chisenhall Sports Complex and future parking and trailhead considerations.

C. Review the June 2026 Parks and Recreation calendar. (Staff Contact: Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation)

Jen Basham, Director of Parks and Recreation, reviewed the June 2026 Parks and Recreation calendar with the Board. A paper copy of the programming calendar was given to the Board.

5. REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND REPORTS

- Update to wildflower no-mow areas.
- Update regarding the Special Needs Cohort.
- Review future meeting scheduling.

6. ADJOURN

Motion made by Miguel Angel Sanchez and seconded by Tyler Knox to adjourn the meeting.

Matt Quinn, Chair, adjourned the meeting. **Time: 6:48 PM.**

Sarah Heath
Recording Secretary