



CITY OF COOPER CITY PARKS & RECREATION MASTERPLAN WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 5:00 PM
City Hall Auditorium | 9090 SW 50th Place

MINUTES

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Curran opened the meeting at 5:30 PM and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present were Commissioners Smith, Mallozzi, Katzman, and Mayor Curran. Commissioner Shrouder arrived at 5:15 PM.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Parks & Recreation Master Plan

City Manager Rey explained that staff is looking for guidance on the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Staff will note each Commissioner's priorities, and then the tentative \$2 million annual allocation can be made.

Commissioner Mallozzi asked about the status of the demolition of the bathrooms and concession stand at Bill Lips Park and whether upgrades could be made instead. City Manager Rey is unaware of any structural deficiencies in the building, but it is not aesthetically pleasing.

Commissioner Smith said each park has a high-cost item related to structural buildings. He asked whether they would need the structural status of each building before deciding which updates to make.

Mayor Curran said Bill Lips said is made of concrete block. He would support updates to the restrooms and to the aesthetics.

Commissioner Mallozzi also supports cosmetic modifications.

City Manager Rey stated that conducting a preliminary assessment by an architectural firm would be a good step when evaluating buildings.

Commissioner Katzman agrees they don't need to demolish any buildings to upgrade restrooms. When he mentioned the park bathrooms in a previous meeting, he was referring to their aesthetics. He wants to focus on the most used parks first, as they did with Suellen Fardelmann Park.

The Commission reached a consensus to update the restrooms at Bill Lips.

City Manager Rey said \$600,000 was allocated for the lighting at Bill Lips in this year's budget. The total estimate is \$1 million. Numerous parks have lighting projects, but they will be reanalyzed by the energy-saving company recently approved by the Commission. The other major project at Bill Lips is the parking area pavers.

Commissioner Katzman inquired about the pavers. City Manager Rey stated that pavers are being installed around the parking areas.

Commissioner Mallozzi inquired whether the concrete lighting poles would be updated. Parks and Recreation Director Josh Rhodes replied that some poles would be updated.

Commissioner Shrouder does not support spending a million dollars on lighting. He also said the poles at the park appear to be in good condition.

Commissioner Smith asked what site amenities are included. Deputy City Manager Jennifer McMahon said the amenities include park benches, tables, garbage cans, bleachers, chairs, and bike racks. Commissioner Smith asked Mayor Curran about the amenities at Bill Lips, as he has coached there this season. Mayor Curran responded that he saw no issues with the amenities. Mayor Curran asked why amenities are not updated separately. City Manager Rey said staff set aside certain amenity costs in the budget, but this plan was an overall overhaul.

Commissioner Mallozzi supports receiving sponsors for benches.

The Commission reached a consensus to discuss sponsorships at another time.

City Manager Rey said the updates to Pioneer Middle School involve a complete overhaul of all amenities and fields.

Commissioner Mallozzi expressed concerns about converting the fields at Pioneer to pickleball, citing potential noise complaints.

Commissioner Smith asked about the difference in sound between the current court needs and pickleball.

Director Rhodes said there is a 150-foot distance requirement.

Commissioner Smith asked what allocation lists the additional fields needed. City Manager Rey said the sports lighting and court upgrades cost \$700,000.

Commissioner Katzman mentioned that while he doesn't believe all the fields need upgrading, he supports the idea of multi-purpose fields.

City Manager Rey said seeding could be used, but the field has some limitations: it does not support heavy usage and has irrigation issues.

Commissioner Katzman asked whether the Broward County School Board is willing to contribute to the field updates. City Manager Rey said that fixing the fields is not a priority for them.

Commissioner Smith asked if the City updates the fields, who will have exclusive rights to them. Director Rhodes replied that the City would need a reciprocal use agreement and a program structure with staffing in place to allow open use of the fields.

Commissioner Shrouder said we have a long-term lease at Pioneer Middle School during non-school hours. He asked how bad the lighting is. Director Rhodes said the infrastructure and age are in poor condition.

Mayor Curran inquired whether the City had examined the lighting problems to identify exactly what was wrong with each unit. Director Rhodes responded affirmatively.

Commissioner Smith is not willing to allocate City funds to Pioneer Middle School until Flamingo West Park and Suellen Fardelmann are improved.

Commissioner Mallozzi said the City uses Pioneer Middle School for camp, aftercare, basketball, and cheerleading. The fields support our City's programs.

Commissioner Shrouder said the City does use the fields and has always used them, they were abandoned as the City built more parks throughout the area. He asked if additional field space is needed.

Commissioner Smith believes we should use the Pioneer Middle School fields last.

Mayor Curran inquired about the school's needs. Deputy City Manager McMahon responded that the Principal is focused on parking. Commissioner Shrouder mentioned that Pioneer Middle School offers few sports, so its needs differ from those of the City.

Commissioner Mallozzi stated that Pioneer Middle School offers numerous sports.

Commissioner Katzman asked if the sports Commissioner, Mallozzi, referenced use the City's fields. Director Rhodes responded that the sports do sometimes utilize the City's fields.

City Manager Rey said the updates to Flamingo West Park include shaded fitness areas.

Commissioner Smith said the turf at Flamingo West Park needs costly updates and asked if funds are allocated annually. Director Rhodes responded that the sports usage fee is reserved for turf replacement. Commissioner Smith emphasized that the field costs are extremely high and should be a top priority.

Mayor Curran asked Deputy City Manager McMahon for her thoughts on the fitness updates. Deputy City Manager McMahon suggested placing fitness equipment along the walking paths instead of in a single central area. Mayor Curran mentioned this could reduce costs since it involves incremental updates.

Director Rhodes stated that the fields at Flamingo West Park are beyond the 10-year replacement plan.

Commissioner Shrouder said that when the previous Commission approved the turf at the park, it should have allocated the maintenance costs, which are in the millions.

Mayor Curran mentioned he discussed allocating maintenance costs.

Commissioner Katzman recommends installing a rubberized surface at the playground instead of mulch. City Manager Rey mentioned that the equipment's age should be considered. Commissioner Katzman stated that feedback from community members who use these playgrounds indicates a strong preference for rubberized surfaces and shaded areas.

Deputy City Manager McMahon stated that \$331,000 has been saved so far for field replacement at Flamingo West Park.

Commissioner Smith does not want to move forward with other projects in Flamingo West Park until costs for field updates are determined.

CFO Irwin Williams said that out of the \$65 facility use fees received, \$15 goes toward field maintenance costs.

Mayor Curran wants to determine a better cost mechanism for saving money for the field updates.

Commissioner Shrouder stated that the recommended lifespan of the field might be inaccurate.

Commissioner Mallozzi wants to allocate more than \$15 for field maintenance.

City Manager Rey said the biggest project in Suellen Fardelmann Park is lighting and maintenance of the facilities.

Commissioner Smith said he hasn't received recent complaints about additional pickleball fields. He inquired if the bathroom and field renovations are already included in this year's budget. City Manager Rey confirmed yes. Commissioner Smith expressed interest in focusing on Suellen Fardelmann Park to address any remaining needs.

Commissioner Mallozzi stated that the City does not require any additional pickleball courts.

Commissioner Shrouder said pickleball is the fastest-growing sport of 2026.

Commissioner Smith asked for the dollar amount for utilities. Director Rhodes mentioned the water lines for the building. Commissioner Smith inquired about technology. City Manager Rey said technology is being addressed now.

Commissioner Mallozzi said pickleball is the newest sport, so it would be the most popular. She has not heard any complaints since more courts were added at the Pool and Tennis Center.

Director Rhodes said that during the workshops for the Parks and Recreation Plan, staff discussed adding additional lines to certain courts to enable multiple uses.

Commissioner Shrouder said he does not think pickleball is a priority for Commissioner Mallozzi. The City has many residents who enjoy playing pickleball. He also thinks the roller hockey rinks look tacky and need updates.

Commissioner Smith agrees that the pickleball courts should be situated at the City's multi-use park, Suellen Fardelmann Park.

Commissioner Shrouder is seeking updates for the roller hockey courts.

Commissioner Smith inquired about the restroom upgrades. City Manager Rey mentioned there might be some funds remaining from the \$500,000 budget, but he's not certain.

City Manager Rey said they can remove the roller rink and add two courts, which will improve the appearance. A barrier is needed between the volleyball courts and the pickleball courts. The estimated cost for this would be around \$160,000.

Commissioner Katzman inquired whether Field C would remain unchanged. He noted that the volleyball area requires shading and seating. He observed children fainting due to heat exposure. He expressed a desire to allocate funds to mitigate the heat-related concerns.

Commissioner Smith requests a new amount to update the entire area.

Commissioner Shrouder would like to update the restrooms only until plans for the safety complex are finalized.

Commissioner Smith agrees that no fields should be updated without the necessary plans for the safety complex.

Commissioner Shrouder suspects the basketball courts will be removed during the remodeling of the safety complex.

Commissioner Smith supports bathroom updates at Bill Lips.

Mayor Curran said the lighting at Bill Lips is terrible.

Commissioner Smith said the lighting at Bill Lips costs \$400,000.

Mayor Curran asked Director Rhodes about the lighting at Suellen Fardelmann Park. Director Rhodes said some poles are out of warranty. He also mentioned that the lighting at Bill Lips needs attention before Suellen.

City Manager Rey stated that the restroom upgrades at Bill Lips will cost \$300,000, and the lighting will cost \$400,000. The City still has \$1.3 million available. The maintenance facility at Suellen Fardelmann Park is estimated to be \$250,000. The Community Center requires additional security cameras to connect to the Real Time Crime Center.

The Commission agreed to move forward with the Community Center updates.

Mayor Curran said he was informed that the pump house at the Pool and Tennis Center needs updating. Deputy City Manager McMahan mentioned that \$500,00 was allocated in this year's budget to improve the splashpad area by adding a children's pool. That process is currently ongoing with aquatic companies.

Commissioner Katzman wants to prioritize the Pool and Tennis Center, as they do with the most-utilized parks.

Commissioner Smith wants to ensure that ADA requirements are accounted for.

Commissioner Katzman intends to refurbish the furniture at the Pool and Tennis Center to facilitate increased utilization by older children and for rental purposes. Deputy City Manager McMahan discussed planned updates to accommodate party rentals.

Commissioner Mallozzi mentioned that there used to be a lap pool, and the splash pad was included at a low cost. She would like to see separate filtration options.

Mayor Curran stated that the Forest Lake Park playground requires updating.

City Manager Rey stated that the Forest Lake playground costs \$400,000.

Commissioner Smith supports playground updates at Forest Lake.

Commissioner Katzman supports the Forest Lake playground updates and also wants to explore available grant funding.

The Commission agreed to update the pump area at the Pool and Tennis Center.

Mayor Curran inquired if the playground upgrades could be completed this year. City Manager Rey responded that once procurement needs are fulfilled, it would be around October 1st.

Commissioner Smith wants to ensure the parks have security cameras.

Director Rhodes stated that reallocating some items budgeted for this year would enable them to prioritize Forest Lake during this period.

The Commission agreed to add funds for security cameras at the parks.

Commissioner Katzman mentioned that many of our pocket parks have grassy areas, and perhaps the grass could be trimmed short to accommodate pickup practices.

Commissioner Smith inquired about the upgrade at City Mike Park for the dogs. Director Rhodes said the projects are scheduled for 2029.

Commissioner Mallozzi said the updates are nearing \$130,000 for City Mike Park. Director Rhodes mentioned that the cost to replace the sod and site amenities is almost \$100,000. He also recommends installing pavers at the park.

Commissioner Mallozzi inquired about using plastic circles instead of pavers.

Director Rhodes asked that the remaining \$100,000 be left in the contingency fund for all projects.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

The minutes of the Commission Workshop held on March 24, 2026, were approved during the regular Commission meeting held on April 14, 2026.

Mayor James Curran

Tedra Allen, City Clerk

ADA NOTICE

This meeting is open to the public. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, all persons who are disabled and who need special accommodations to participate in this meeting because of that disability should contact the Office of the City Clerk, 954-434-4300 ext. 220, not later than two days prior to such proceeding. One or more members of the City of Cooper City Advisory Boards may be in attendance and may participate at the meeting. Anyone wishing to appeal any decision made by the Cooper City Commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing will need a record of the proceedings and, for such purpose, may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. Agenda items may be viewed online at www.coopercity.gov or at the Office of the City Clerk, City of Cooper City, 9090 SW 50 Place, Cooper City, Florida, 33328, 954-434-4300.

DECORUM

Members of the Commission, staff members, citizens, and others are required to use civil and appropriate language when addressing the Commission or anyone present at the meeting and must refrain from using profanity, cursing, or exhibiting aggressive or threatening behavior. All comments should generally be directed to the presiding officer and not to individual members of the Commission, staff, or the audience. No personal verbal attacks toward any individual by either the Commission, staff, citizens, or others shall be allowed during any meeting of the Commission.

Any persons making impertinent or slanderous remarks or personal attacks or who becomes boisterous while addressing the Commission or who otherwise violates the decorum rules set forth herein shall be barred from further audience before the Commission by the Mayor, or by request of any member of the Commission unless permission to continue or again address the Commission be granted by a majority vote of the Commission members present.
