



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

MEETING - MINUTES

City Council Chambers, 33 East Broadway Avenue, Meridian, Idaho
Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 4:00 PM

The Meridian Parks & Recreation Commission is a volunteer citizens' group that is created and empowered to advise the City on issues relating to park facilities and recreation programs of the City. Their mission is to gather input from staff and other qualified personnel on issues relating to the creation and design of public parks and open spaces; to listen to public input; and to provide advice and recommendations on parks and recreation related matters to the Mayor and City Council.

ROLL-CALL ATTENDANCE

<u> </u> Dom Gelsomino, Chair	<u> </u> Brienne Sandow, Vice Chair
<u> </u> Jennifer Bobo	<u> </u> Alan Helms
<u> </u> Mandi Roberts	<u> </u> Helen Muscolo
<u> </u> Jo Greer	<u> </u> Toren Taylor
<u> </u> Terry Dennington	

Others present were: MPR Department staff—Parks and Recreation Director Steve Siddoway, Park Superintendent Mike Barton, Recreation Superintendent Garrett White, Marketing Coordinator Shelly Houston, Administrative Assistant I Jackie Smith, and Deputy City Attorney Emily Kane.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Commission Chair Dom Gelsomino asked for a motion to adopt the evening's agenda. Commissioner Jo Greer moved to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Terry Dennington seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. November 12, 2025, Special Meeting

Commission Chair Dom Gelsomino asked for a motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Commissioner Jo Greer moved to adopt the minutes. Alan Helms seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2. Welcome New MPR Commissioner Helen Muscolo

Commission Chair Dom Gelsomino welcomed Helen Muscolo to the Meridian Parks and Recreation Commission. He then invited Commissioner Helen to speak and to share a little bit about herself. Commissioner Helen stated that she has an extensive background in Parks and Recreation, ranging from managing picnic parks, operating venues, and working with government agencies, to becoming Vice President of the California Parks Company.

3. Upcoming Events

Shelly Houston, Parks and Recreation Marketing Coordinator, presented the upcoming events:

- A. Angel Tree Toy Drive — up until December 12th
- B. Santa's Mailbox has received hundreds of letters
- C. Children's Winterland Festival — December 13th
- D. Daughters of the American Revolution — Wreaths Across America — December 13th

The floor was opened for questions.

1. Commissioner Mandi Roberts asked for confirmation of the deadline for Angel Tree donations.

Shelly responded, stating that the deadline is set for noon on December 12th; however, if a few toys come in after the deadline, they can still be added.

No further questions were raised by the Commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS ~ NONE

NEW BUSINESS

4. Christmas Presentation

Parks and Recreation Director Steve Siddoway presented each of the commissioners with a Meridian City bag and a Christmas card. He thanked the commissioners for their time and commitment to the community.

5. MPR Volunteer Program Update

Jackie Smith holds dual positions as an Administrative Assistant I and Volunteer Coordinator. Jackie provided a PowerPoint presentation updating the Meridian City volunteer program.

Program Highlights include:

- 3rd Grade Tours – provides hands-on education to local students
- Front Counter Coverage – greets and directs visitors, answers questions, assists in the Mayor’s office, and covers lunches
- Park Ambassador Program – volunteers monitor and oversee larger parks, ensuring that park users are safe

Three volunteers were recognized for their dedication to the community:

- Bill Bowman – 2,521.75 volunteer hours
- Billie Bowles – 3,733 volunteer hours
- William Heller – 1,046.25 volunteer hours

Two special event volunteers were recognized for their dedication:

- Kathy Templeton – 10 years of volunteering at special events
- Parks Commissioner Jo Greer – helps annually with the Children’s Winterland Festival

2025 Volunteer Gatherings included:

- Spring Kick-Off
- Mayor’s Appreciation Luncheon
- Appreciation Pancake Breakfast
- Holiday and Wrap-Up Party

This year, new Challenge Coins were implemented to recognize hours of service, with milestones including 100 hours, 500 hours, and 1,000 hours.

The floor was opened for questions:

1. Commissioner Mandi Roberts asked if we are set up with 46 volunteers or if we are looking for more.

Jackie responded that the program is always looking for volunteers. However, the volunteer count reflects consistent volunteers, not those who participate in one-off events. She also noted that she is responsible solely for tracking volunteers for the Park Ambassadors and Front Counter programs.

2. Commissioner Terry Dennington asked if the third-grade tours are one of Jackie's primary focuses.

Jackie responded that she is responsible for recruiting the volunteers but does not run the program itself.

No further questions were raised by the Commissioners.

6. MPR Commission 2026 Leadership Elections

Steve Siddoway stated that Brienne Sandow will have to step down from her Vice Chair position so she will not be able to step into the Commissioner Chair position.

Commission Chair Dom Gelsomino stated that Meridian City Code directs elections to be held in the December meeting. The bylaws state that officers of the commission shall include the Commission Chair and the Commission Vice-Chair. The bylaws also state that the Commission Vice-Chair shall be automatically nominated for the position of Chair. Vice-Chair Brienne Sandow has declined the nomination due to scheduling conflicts.

Commission Chair Dom Gelsomino opened the floor for nominations of Chair.

Commissioner Mandi Roberts nominated Dom Gelsomino to continue being the Commissioner Chair for one calendar year.

The floor was opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations came in.

Commission Chair Dom Gelsomino opened the floor for nominations of Vice-Chair.

Commissioner Mandi Roberts nominated Commissioner Jo Greer. The floor was opened for additional nominations. No additional nominations came in.

Commission Chair Dom Gelsomino asked for a motion to elect himself, Dom Gelsomino, to continue serving as Chair and for Commissioner Jo Greer to serve as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Mandi Roberts made a motion to for the continuation of Commission Chair Dom Gelsomino remaining in that position and for Commissioner Jo Greer to serve as Vice-Chair. Alan Helms seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

7. MPR Commission 2026 All-Commission Goals

Parks Director Steve Siddoway presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2026 goals for the Meridian Parks and Recreation Commission. The 2026 goals are as follows:

- A. Support the construction of the new Community Center and the expansion of Settlers Park.
- B. Support development of a connected pathway system across the City of Meridian, with a focus on user experience, amenities, and improved connectivity. This includes meeting with neighboring cities to coordinate continuous pathway planning beyond our boundaries.
- C. Complete the Pathways Master Plan update.
- D. Continue to provide feedback on ongoing park improvements and enhancements.
- E. Participate in a partnership with the Meridian Arts Commission to incorporate theming and identity-reinforcing art in Meridian parks and along pathways. This year's focus is on the completion of the Public Art Master Plan and the integration of art at the new Community Center.

Commissioner Terry Dennington asked if Settlers Park would be re-themed in 2026 or at a later date.

Steve responded that Settlers Park is planned to be re-themed in conjunction with the new Community Center, as they are located on the same property.

- F. Support future improvements at Lakeview Golf Course, including new signage, fencing, and enhancements to the irrigation pond area.
- G. Add a new playground to Tammy Street Park and officially rename it as a City Park.

Commissioner Terry Dennington asked what the plan was for renaming Tammy Street Park.

Steve stated that the park needs to be renamed because it is currently called Settlers Village Park, which could create confusion with the larger Settlers Park. The City also has a policy that does not allow parks to be named after the subdivision in

which they are located, as this can make it seem like it is not a public park. The City plans to work with a few neighbors in the subdivision to select a new name for the park.

Commissioner Alan Helms asked about the signage for Lakeview Golf Course and its main purpose.

The Meridian Parks Superintendent responded that the signage is not intended for way finding or directions; rather, it is meant to enhance the sense of arrival, as there is currently no clearly visible signage for the property.

H. Engage other task forces, commissions, entities, and agencies through workshops and outreach for partnership opportunities

I. Support ongoing operations of the Meridian Pool.

J. Pursue improved communication tools and opportunities to engage the community and diverse interests.

The floor was opened for additions or revisions to the presented goals. No additional revisions were proposed by the Commissioners.

The scoring process was explained to Commissioners, and time was allotted for them to rank the priorities in order of importance. The scores will be compared, and the cumulative results will determine the final order of goals for 2026.

Please see the attachment reflecting the updated list of 2026 All-Commission Goals.

Commissioner Jo Greer moved to approve the MPR goals as they are shown in the ranking order to serve for the 2026 calendar year. Commissioner Jennifer Bobo seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

WORKSHOP ~ NONE

STAFF REPORTS

8. MPR Staff

Director Steve Siddoway reported on the following:

1. He thanked everyone who attended the Christmas Parade.
2. He reiterated that the Children's Winterland Festival is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The floor was opened for questions. No further questions were raised by the Commissioners.

Parks Superintendent Mike Barton reported on the following:

1. Rail with Trail has both state and local agreements in place and is now in the pre-construction phase.
2. The Pathways Master Plan draft will be presented to the Commission in February.

The floor was opened for questions. No further questions were raised by the Commissioners.

Recreation Superintendent Garrett White reported on the following:

1. The Christmas Parade and Children's Winterland Festival kept the majority of the recreation staff busy.
2. The Classes and Camps Coordinator is reviewing and researching fees.
3. Lakeview Golf Course is reviewing and planning schedules and future tournaments.
4. The pool remains closed; however, staff are recruiting lifeguards and scheduling swim meets.
5. Homecourt is fully booked, with all courts in use throughout the day, the majority being used for pickleball.
6. External events are being planned and entered into the schedule in preparation for the Parks reservation system opening soon.

The floor was opened for questions. No further questions were raised by the Commissioners.

NEXT MEETING ~ Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 4 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Chair Don Gelsomino called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jo Greer moved to adjourn. Commissioner Alam Helms seconded. All were in favor of the motion.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 5:09pm.

2025 All-Commission Goals:

1. Participate in the design and programming of a new Community Center.
2. Support development of a connected pathway system across the City of Meridian, with a focus on user experience amenities and improved connectivity.
3. Participate in the development of the Pathways Master Plan Update.
4. Continue to provide feedback for ongoing park improvements and enhancements.
5. Participate in the partnership with the Meridian Arts Commission to add theming and identity reinforcing art in Meridian parks and along pathways. Focus this year on Chateau Park and the Arts Master Plan.
6. Support future improvements at Lakeview Golf Course, including new on-course restrooms.
7. Pursue a future park site in Northwest Meridian "Fields District."
8. Engage other task forces, commissions, entities, and agencies through workshops and other outreach for partnership opportunities.
9. Support ongoing operations of the Meridian Pool.
10. Pursue improved communication tools and opportunities to engage the community and diverse interests.

Celebrating Meridian Volunteers

Honoring Our Community Champions in 2025



Jacqueline Smith

Admin 1 and Volunteer Coordinator

Major Program Highlights

01

3rd Grade Tours

- Tours run March through May
- Provides hands-on civic education to many local students

02

Front Counter Coverage

Dedicated volunteers assisting the community daily at City Hall.

03

Park Ambassador Program

Volunteers enhancing and beautifying local parks.



Front Counter Coverage

Volunteers assist with:

- Greeting and directing visitors

In addition, volunteers extend front desk coverage to:

- Community Development
- Parks & Recreation
- Mayor's Office

Program Stats (as of December 1, 2025):

- 32 active Front Counter volunteers
- 2,446.25 hours contributed



Park Ambassador Program

The Park Ambassador Program empowers Volunteers to enhance visitor experience and support park staff

Program Stats (as of December 1, 2025):

- 13 active Park Ambassadors
- 554.25 hours contributed

Locations Covered:

- Julius M. Kleiner Memorial Park – Cart & walking
- Discovery Park – Golf Cart
- Settlers Park – Walking
- Heroes Park – Walking



Celebrating Our Outstanding Volunteers

OVER 1000 Hours!

**Bill
Bowman**
Started May
2014 - Ongoing
2,521.75
Hours

**Billie
Bowles**
2016-2025
3,733
Hours

**William
Heller**
2017-2025
1,046.25
Hours

Celebrating Special Event Volunteer Contributions



Kathy Templeton

Over 10 years supporting
multiple Meridian Special
Events through the year



Parks Commissioner
Jo Greer

Annual Christmas stage
decorating
Annual Winterland Festival
Santa photo area set-up and
photo booth helper

Spring Kick -Off

The Spring Kick-Off is the annual event that launches the new volunteer season. It brings together returning volunteers and new program participants to reconnect, receive updates, and prepare for the year ahead. The Kick-Off sets the tone for the year—celebrating the team, reinforcing the mission, and ensuring volunteers have the tools and information they need to succeed.



Appreciation Pancake Breakfast

The Appreciation Pancake Breakfast is a warm, informal gathering designed to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our volunteers. The breakfast reinforces how essential volunteers are to the City's success while fostering camaraderie and gratitude across the team.

Mayor's Appreciation Luncheon

The Appreciation Luncheon is an event dedicated to recognizing the hard work of our volunteers, featuring heartfelt speeches, delicious food, and opportunities to connect with fellow community members.

2025 Volunteer Gatherings

Celebrating our amazing volunteers together

Holiday and Wrap -Up Party

Our Holiday Wrap-up Party is our end-of-year celebration to thank volunteers and recognize their contributions. Along with enjoying food and festive activities, volunteers also wrap gifts for the Meridian Head Start program, helping ensure local children receive holiday presents. It's a fun, meaningful way to celebrate the season while giving back to the community.





New Volunteer Recognition Challenge Coins

The Challenge Coins honor the dedication and contributions of our volunteers, symbolizing their lasting impact on the City and community.

Introduced in 2025, they recognize outstanding service at key milestones:

- 100 hours
- 500 hours
- 1,000 hours

These coins celebrate volunteer commitment, longevity, and exceptional service.

Celebrating Our Volunteers

Recognizing dedication and community support



46

Total Number of Volunteers in 2025

Each making a significant impact this year

3,255

Combined Logged Volunteer Hours for 2025

Reflecting the commitment of our community members

Any Questions?

Thank
you



**MERIDIAN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
2026 ALL-COMMISSION GOALS**

1 = highest priority / 10 = lowest priority										
Commission Priority	Score: lower = higher priority	Dom Gelsomino	Brienne Sandow	Jennifer Bobo	Jo Greer	Mandi Roberts	Alan Helms	Terry Dennington	Toren Taylor	Helen Muscolo
1	12	1		4	1	1	1	1	1	2
2	27	4		1	4	4	4	3	3	4
3										
	32	6		2	6	5	6	2	2	3
4	38	2		6	2	3	2	7	7	9
5										
	41	5		7	5	2	5	4	6	7
6	42	7		3	7	8	7	5	4	1
7										
	42	3		8	3	6	3	6	5	8
8										
	59	8		5	8	9	8	8	8	5
9	71	9		9	9	7	9	9	9	10
10										
	76	10		10	10	10	10	10	10	6

2026 Goals

- 1 Support construction of the new Community Center and the expansion of Settlers Park.
- 2 Complete the Pathways Master Plan Update.
- 3 Support development of a connected pathway system across the City of Meridian, with a focus on user experience amenities and improved connectivity. Meet with the rest of our neighboring cities to coordinate continuous pathway planning beyond our boundary.
- 4 Add a new playground to Tammy Street Park and give the park an official new name as a City park.
- 5 Participate in the partnership with the Meridian Arts Commission to add theming and identity reinforcing art in Meridian parks and along pathways. Focus this year on completion of the Public Art Master Plan and art for the new Community Center.
- 6 Continue to provide feedback for ongoing park improvements and enhancements.
- 7 Support future improvements at Lakeview Golf Course, including new signage for the course, fencing, and improvements to the irrigation pond area.
- 8 Engage other task forces, commissions, entities, and agencies through workshops and other outreach for partnership opportunities.
- 9 Support ongoing operations of the Meridian Pool.
- 10 Pursue improved communication tools and opportunities to engage the community and diverse interests.

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Draft 2026 Goals for MPR Commission

- a ~~Participate in the design and programming of a~~ Support construction of the new Community Center and the expansion of Settlers Park.
- b Support development of a connected pathway system across the City of Meridian, with a focus on user experience amenities and improved connectivity. ~~planning beyond our boundary.~~
- c ~~Participate in the development of~~ Complete the Pathways Master Plan Update.
- d Continue to provide feedback for ongoing park improvements and enhancements.
- e Participate in the partnership with the Meridian Arts Commission to add theming and identity reinforcing art in Meridian parks and along pathways. ~~Plan and art for the new Community Center.~~
- f Support future improvements at Lakeview Golf Course, including new ~~on-course restrooms~~ signage for the course, fencing, and improvements to the irrigation pond area.
- g ~~Pursue a future park site in Northwest Meridian "Fields District."~~ Add a new playground to Tammy Street Park and give the park an official new name as a City park.
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