



# Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 5:30 PM

The Tom Hardin Room – 100 Public Square, Mount Pleasant, TN

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## 1. Call to Order

Mrs. McWilliams called the meeting to order

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation

Mrs. McWilliams lead the Pledge and asked Mr. Patton to lead the Invoacation

## 3. Roll Call

Mrs. Arnold was not presant at roll call but came in late to the meeting.

- A. Luemma McWilliams - Chair Person
- Bedford Smith - Co Chair Person
- Kathy Pepe - Secretary
- Loree Knowles - City Commissioner
- Larry Patton - Board Member
- Katrina Holt - Board Member
- Anna Arnold - Board Member

## 4. Approval / Correction of Minutes from Prior Meetings

- A. Regular Session - Jan 14th, 2026
- Regular Session - Jan 14th, 2026

Mrs. McWilliams stated that the Commission had been sent a copy of the minutes by email and asked if there were any changes. No changes needed to be made, so Mrs. McWilliams asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Mrs. Holt made the motion and Mrs. Knowles seconded that motion. The Commission was in favor of approval.

## 5. Completion / Review of Unfinished Business from prior meeting

- A. Daddy Daughter Dance

Ms. Busby stated that the final approval had been sent and that everything was good to go for the night. She then asked Mrs. McWilliams about food and drink and Mrs. McWilliams said that she had that took care of.

Ms. Busby then asked for volenteers and told them to be at the school for decorations at 9am and then be back at the school by 4pm to finish set up.

Mrs. Arnold reminded the commssion that there was going to be a dance the night before and was asked if the tables could be left out and the decorations could be used by us to save time, she agreed.

B. March Event

Ms. Busby reminded the commission of the discussion from the previous month about the Mother Son Dance and the lack of attendance, so she brought up the ideas of a Kite flying day or a Nurf Night. The Commission went into detail about each event and what it would take to host it and decided to go with the Kite Day.

Mrs. McWilliams mentioned more suggestions for future events, like scavenger hunts and a dinner with the Son's and Mom's

C. Easter Egg Hunt

The Commission discussed where this event would take place this year with the Center under construction. It was mentioned that we could host the hunt in the open space on the other side of the splash pad. We would have access to bathrooms and electricity, along with a place to put all the prizes that will be handed out.

Mrs. McWilliams recommended that we set specific times for this year's events. Registration would start 30 minutes before the hunt to allow people to get their kids signed up for prizes and once the egg hunt is done give away the prizes to end the day. The Commission agreed on the plan.

D. Strategic Plan

Mr. Grooms stated that his update for this point would come later in the meeting.

**6. Special reports from other City Departments or Committees if applicable**

A. Parks Report

Ms. Busby informed the group that she and Mr. Grooms had been working on new programming. Meeting with others that could and would help get the new Community Center going once construction is complete.

B. City Manager Report

Mr. Grooms didn't have a report but he would discuss some of the later points in the meeting.

**7. New Business**

**(Comments from citizens may or may not be included, dependent on the issues.)**

A. May Event

Ms. Busby stated that May kicks off Movie Nights in the Park and Mr. Smith mentioned that now that all the pavillions have electricity all parks could be used for a movie.

B. June Event

Ms. Busby spoke about the Juneteenth and waterday event. This is an event that the commission wants to see grow. Ms. Busby asked Mrs. Holt if she had started working on Juneteenth. She had spoke to a couple of people about this event and they would not be able to come on Friday but could come Saturday.

The Commission discussed having this event on Saturday the 20th but decided to keep it on the 19th, due to competing with other celebrations.

Mr. Grooms recommended that the commission put it back in the agenda and discuss more next month.

C. July Event

Mr. Grooms brought up a few points that the commission had discussed about how to improve this event. 1) Moving everything over to one side 2) Having the event a little later and 3) Having the band play later so that there is not a huge gap till the fireworks. Mr. Grooms asked the Commission for anymore recommendations on how to make the event better than the previous year.

Mrs. McWilliams mentioned another possible July Event, the Back to School Bash. With the kids going back to school this year on August the 3rd, Mrs. McWilliams wanted to make sure this got put on our books so that she could start gathering donations for this event. They discussed dated but nothing was set in place so the item will be added to next months agenda for further discussion.

#### D. Healthy Build Grant

Mr. Grooms asked Ms. Europe Dooley to come and speak on this item. She is helping the city put together the package for this grant.

Mr. Grooms pulled up the time line to show the commission as Ms. Dooley stated to speak. She first spoke about the 2 phases of the grant and then went into details about the things needed for the grant. She stated that Clark Mini Park would be the park that this grant would focus on. She stated that she and her team created a flyer and on that flyer is a QR code that will take you to a survey about what you would like to see in that park.

Mr. Grooms went through the questions in the survey. Ms. Dooley then spoke about the due date for the Letter of intent neededng to be turned in by March 15th. Mr. Grooms stated that taking on Clark Mini Park was based off the Commission recomindation, wanting to put a few updates in that park. Mrs. Alderson asked Ms. Dooley if the survey could be sent to the person over the Housing Authority for all the residents to fill out. Mr. Grooms spoke about possibly adding funding if budget allows to help grow this park in the next year or two and not in the next five.

Mr. Grooms informed the commission that this grant is the same grant we applied for to use at Rotary Park but got denied. Mrs. Alderson then asked about why Mt. Pleasant keeps getting denied for these grants. Several explanations where given as to how some of these grants work and how they award the grants.

Futher details were discussed and the Commission thanksed Ms. Dooley for her time and help with this grant.

#### E. TDEC Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan Grant

Mr. Grooms as he pulled up the specifics on this grant he talked about working with South Central on pulling this grant together. This grant is to help get a systemwide plan for our Parks Department. There is a possibility to up our funds if we can partner with the County on this grant.

#### F. Eagle Scout Project Proposal for Rotary Park Shelter

Mr. Logan Sweely presented his Eagle Scout Project to the Comission, he would like to clean up Rotary Park. He would like to powerwash the pavillion, bridge and concrete, restrain the wood on the pavillion, benches, and bridge. He would like to seal all the cracks on the concrete and repaint the benches on the playground, the trash cans and the grills and finally they would like to install a wheelchair ramp to the pavillion. The projected cost of this project is \$2,500.00, for all supplies needed. Mr. Sweely went through his list of supplies. This project would be paid for by donations and the work would be done by volunteers.

Mr. Smith recommended that the Comission approve this project and spoke about all of the prior Eagle Scout Projects done throughout the parks. Mr. Grooms stated that the he would add this to his City Manager Report about the project and Mrs. McWilliams stated that we

need to make a motion and Mr. Smith made that motion and Mr. Patton made the second and the whole comission was in favor of this motion.

**8. General comments from citizens (May be limited in time and/or number of comments.)**

**9. Board / Staff Comments / Adjournment**

Mrs. McWilliams asked if no more comments then she would intertain a motion to adjourn. No more comments were made and Mrs. Knowles made the motion to adjourn and Ms. Pepe made the second.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_