

Norman Board of Parks Commissioners
October 2, 2025

The Norman Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Norman, Cleveland County, State of Oklahoma, met in a Regular Session in the Development Center Conference Room A, on the 7th day of August, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., and notice of the agenda of the meeting was posted at the Development Center Building at 225 N. Webster Avenue and on the City website at least 24 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Present: Vice-Chair Usry and Commissioners Davison, Fagin, Isacksen, Wright, and Wyckoff

Absent: Chair Sheriff and Commissioners Nanny and Tedder-Loffland

City Officials

Present: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation
Mitchell Richardson, Recreation Manager
Wade Thompson, Parks Manager
Karla Sitton, Administrative Technician IV

ITEM 1, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR
POSTPONEMENT OF MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 7, 2025, PARK BOARD REGULAR
MEETING

Commissioner Isacksen made the motion, and Commissioner Wyckoff seconded to approve the Regular Park Board minutes of August 7, 2025. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Vice-Chair Usry and Commissioners Davison, Fagin, Isacksen, Wright, and Wyckoff

NAY: None

ITEM 2, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF
PREVIOUSLY APPROVED COUNCIL ACTIONS

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, highlighted the previously approved Council actions pertaining to the Parks and Recreation Department as follows:

- K-2526-35: Contract with Alliance Maintenance Inc. in the amount of \$12,635 per month for custodial services at YFAC
- Approval of the Norman Optimist Club Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners
- Approval of the Little Axe Youth Sports Annual Report to the Board of Park Commissioners

ITEM 3, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR
POSTPONEMENT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE NORMAN YOUTH SOCCER
ASSOCIATION

Mr. Ryan Trudgian with the Norman Youth Soccer Association (NYSA) presented the annual report to the Board. A written report, including financial information, was provided to the Board before the meeting. Mr. Trudgian said NYSA offers three youth soccer leagues, which have about 3,000 participants: Recreational, Academy, and Competitive. He said NYSA also provides an adult recreational league that has 136 players and a Tops league for players with special needs. Mr. Trudgian highlighted the tournaments, camps, and fee structures for NYSA. He introduced Lauren Stone, NYSA President, and asked Ms. Stone and the Board if they had any questions.

Commissioner Isacksen mentioned that Chair Sheriff had asked about separating the financial records for the Recreation and Competition programs when NYSA presented its annual report last year.

Park Board Meeting

Page 2 of 4

October 2, 2025

Mr. Trudgian confirmed that these records had not been separated in the past, but they would do so moving forward. Commissioner Isacksen suggested highlighting the revenue and expenses for the Recreation and Competition programs separately if they cannot be fiscally separated on the financial records, and Mr. Trudgian agreed that it would be a good idea.

Commissioner Wright made the motion, and Commissioner Wyckoff seconded to recommend accepting and submitting the Norman Youth Soccer Association's annual report to the City Council. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH:	Vice-Chair Usry and Commissioners Davison, Fagin, Isacksen, Wright, and Wyckoff
NAY:	None

ITEM 4, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE NORMAN ARTS COUNCIL

Ms. Leslie Nottingham, Executive Director with Norman Arts Council (NAC), presented the annual report to the Board. A written report, including financial information, was provided to the Board before the meeting. She said NAC promotes and encourages arts in the Norman community and stated that the arts have a \$36 million economic impact, supports 600 local jobs, and contributes \$6 million in taxes, with \$1.5 million returned to the city. She said all ten (10) of the Norman Forward 1% Art Projects are complete, stating "Emergence" was installed and dedicated at the Adult Wellness and Education Center (AWE) in December 2024. Ms. Nottingham provided updates on the refurbishment of the community "ducks" project, the Artful Inlets project, bike rack refurbishment, the Mural Incentive program, collaboration with the OU mural class and Juneteenth projects, the Silo Mural project, and the new YFAC art collection, "Renaissance Swimmer 6" by Steven Dragon.

Ms. Nottingham presented the projected budget for the upcoming year, which includes a fundraising goal of \$500,000 for a sculpture to commemorate NAC's 50th anniversary. Commissioner Isacksen expressed her gratitude to Ms. Nottingham for extracting the 1% NF public art figures from the financial reports. Commissioner Wright inquired about the location of the "Buffalo" mural mentioned in the NAC presentation, and Ms. Nottingham confirmed that it is located at Wells Christmas Tree Farm. Commissioner Wyckoff acknowledged the beauty of the murals and expressed her appreciation for them, but suggested exploring alternative methods for painting them on brick surfaces. Ms. Nottingham mentioned that NAC has discussed alternative methods, such as plastic prints or sheets, but noted that these can be easily damaged and may not look aesthetically pleasing. She mentioned that NAC is collaborating with Erin Yaman, a local actress, to create audio overlays for QR codes. These QR codes will be placed on plaques at all the NF art projects, allowing people to learn more about the artwork. Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, said there is a possibility of adding a public art piece to the NF Saxon Park Project, provided it fits within the budget.

Commissioner Davison made the motion, and Commissioner Wyckoff seconded to recommend accepting and submitting the Norman Arts Council's annual report to the City Council. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH:	Vice-Chair Usry and Commissioners Davison, Fagin, Isacksen, Wright, and Wyckoff
NAY:	None

ITEM 5, being:

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL, ACCEPTANCE, REJECTION, AMENDMENT, AND/OR POSTPONEMENT OF ALLOCATION OF PUBLIC ART FUNDS FOR GRAY STREET PARKING LOT MURAL PROJECT

Ms. Leslie Nottingham, Executive Director of the Norman Arts Council (NAC), and Mr. Cody Giles, with the Public Art Committee (PAC), highlighted the presentation. Mr. Giles said PAC respectfully submits the proposed Gray Street Parking Lot Mural Project, requesting approval to utilize \$50,000 of already allocated public art funds for a new mural initiative. The project aims to commission six permanent murals for installation on the alley-facing barrier walls of the Gray Street parking lot. Mr. Giles stated that the Gray Street Mural Project aims to beautify a currently underutilized and highly visible space, thereby enhancing the pedestrian experience. The selected mural sites, located on the alley-facing walls of the Gray Street barrier walls, offer a unique canvas for impactful visual storytelling and community engagement. An open call for artists will be released as soon as possible. To ensure a balance of local relevance and external perspective, PAC proposes the following structure for artist selection: three (3) Local Artists: Residents of Norman or surrounding communities in Oklahoma, and three (3) Non-Local Artists: Artists from outside the region with proven mural experience. Each artist will receive an equitable stipend, with funding allocated to support high-quality, durable work and fair compensation. The total project budget is \$50,000, which will be used to cover:

- ❖ Artist fees and materials
- ❖ Equipment rental (e.g., scaffolding, lifts)
- ❖ Site preparation and sealing
- ❖ Coordination, insurance, and contingency costs

The timeline allows for sufficient lead time to coordinate with the Norman Music Festival, potentially aligning the mural unveiling with the event for increased visibility and public engagement.

- ❖ Call for Artists Released: Summer 2025
- ❖ Artist Selection Finalized: Fall 2025
- ❖ Site Preparation and Planning: Winter 2025–26
- ❖ Mural Execution: Spring 2026
- ❖ Target Completion: Weekend of Norman Music Festival 2026 or 2027 (pending approval from the NMF Board)

Commissioner Fagin asked whether the six murals would have a common theme, and Mr. Giles said that they would not. Commissioner Wright inquired whether the \$50,000 budget would cover travel and contingencies, and Mr. Giles confirmed that it would.

Staff recommends that the Park Commission recommend to Council that it allow the Public Arts Committee to proceed and utilize \$50,000 of already allocated public art funds for the Gray Street Parking Lot Mural Project.

Commissioner Fagin made the motion, and Commissioner Wyckoff seconded to recommend that the Council allow the Public Arts Committee to proceed and utilize \$50,000 of the already allocated public art funds for the Gray Street Parking Lot Mural Project. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH:	Vice-Chair Usry and Commissioners Davison, Fagin, Isacksen, Wright, and Wyckoff
NAY:	None

ITEM 6, being:

NORMAN FORWARD UPDATE

Mr. Jason Olsen, Director of Parks and Recreation, said the Norman Forward (NF) Saxon Park Project is currently on hold pending the completion of road construction overseen by the Public Works Department. He noted that this road project will lower the budget for the NF Saxon Park Project, as the associated road work, utilities, water, and sewer connections will be integrated into the park development. Mr. Olsen said the land swap with Norman Public Schools is progressing, and land deeds are being finalized to allow for the acquisition of the parcel between High Meadows Park and Northeast Lions, thereby making the two parks one contiguous area. The new area will be the location for the new play equipment, aiming to reduce vandalism and conflicts with disc golf activities in the current playground.

ITEM 7, being:

DIVISIONAL UPDATE

Mr. Wade Thompson, Parks Manager, said crews continue to finish up summer mowing with the new mowing equipment we recently purchased. He mentioned that crews have completed tree trimming in several parks, poured concrete pads for benches at the 12th Avenue Recreation Center and Kiwanis Park, and removed a section of sidewalk near the Andrews Splash Pad to reroute wiring for the start button. Mr. Thompson said crews added mulch to the Flood Avenue median and worked with the Park Planning staff to redo the median, including the addition of irrigation, on Main Street that crosses Merkle Creek. He stated that this design serves as a model for us to implement across all medians, specifically by removing the grass and incorporating native plants and stone. Mr. Thompson said staff worked with Norman Youth Soccer Association (NYSA) to locate a water leak under their parking lot and installed the first smart watering control clock with a retrofit at Reaves Park. Commissioner Wright requested that staff check with OU regarding the cleaning and maintenance of the median near the Jenkins Road Project. She asked whether staff were aware of the sidewalk crack at Bentley Park, and staff said yes, they are working with the contractor to have it repaired under their initial contract.

Mr. Richardson highlighted several upcoming events, beginning with "Hocus Pocus", which will be shown at Movie in the Park on October 17th; the "Run for Your Life" 5K will take place at Ruby Grant Park on October 18th, and following the 5K, "The Nightmare Before Christmas" will be shown on an inflatable screen. He said the Whittier Recreation Center will have a Fall Break Camp, and the Little Axe Community Center is offering free flu shots. He stated that the staff is assisting the Downtowner Association with their annual Fall Fest, which is relocating to South Jones, in front of the Depot, where Winterfest is held.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wright made the motion, and Commissioner Wyckoff seconded to adjourn. The vote was taken with the following results:

YEAH: Vice-Chair Usry and Commissioners Davison, Fagin, Isacksen, Wright, and Wyckoff

NAY: None

Passed and approved this _____ of _____ 2025

Sherrel Sheriff, Chair