



CITY OF NORMAN, OK STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: 02/05/2026

REQUESTER: Karla Sitton, Administrative Tech IV

PRESENTER: Jason Olsen, Director of Parks & Recreation

ITEM TITLE: DISCUSSION REGARDING GIVING SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO HONOR FORMER PARK COMMISSIONERS AND JENNIFER BAKER FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT AND THE CITY OF NORMAN

BACKGROUND:

The Board of Park Commissioners provides advice to the City Council on citizens' suggestions, as well as the development or improvement of park and recreation facilities, policies, and parkland dedication. The Board participates in long-term planning and offers implementation recommendations. The Board consists of nine (9) Commissioners who serve a term of 36 months, with the possibility of reappointment by the mayor. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, and Special meetings are held as needed.

Jennifer Baker has spent more than two decades guiding the Sooner Theatre in Norman toward its full potential. Baker's hiring as executive director quickly invigorated the nonprofit's momentum. She began creating a season of programming and immediately advocated for the theatre to offer arts education for children in the community. She was recently honored with the Arts in Education Award at the Forty-Sixth Governor's Arts Awards on January 20, 2026.

DISCUSSION:

The Parks and Recreation staff would like to invite several former members of the Board of Park Commissioners, along with Jennifer Baker from the Sooner Theatre, to the Park Board meeting on March 5, 2026. They will be formally recognized for their outstanding commitment and dedicated service to the City of Norman. The City of Norman is fortunate to have such a devoted group of neighbors and friends who are passionate and vision-driven regarding the future of the Norman parks system and cultural centers.