

## **Parks & Trees Commission Meeting – May 11, 2026**

Present: Elizabeth Shook, Bob Williams, Barbara Cantey, Barb Willens, Lisa Rienta, Rickey Macklin, Michael Eddings

Meeting began at 5:30 pm.

### **Approval of Previous Minutes**

Barb Willens made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. The motion was seconded and approved by all present.

### **Committee Business**

Discussion was held regarding park assignment rotations. Members agreed to maintain current park assignments through the next meeting and then continue the rotation schedule once the newest member is present.

### **Park Updates and Events**

Elizabeth reported on ribbon cuttings held for the new playground installations at Boykin Park and Hampton Park. Community attendance was positive, and children were actively using the new equipment. Members requested notification of future ribbon-cutting events involving parks.

### **Park Reports**

Edgewood Park and Groom Park were reported to be in generally good condition. Kirkwood Park had dead trees near the northwest corner, grass growing through portions of the basketball court, and minor litter concerns.

Town Green remained in good condition with minor landscape maintenance needs, including peppervine growth and weeds in stair areas. A TruGreen sign was noted within the park.

City Arena Park had significant litter accumulation, downed tree limbs, and graffiti on the tunnel area. Committee members suggested a future community cleanup effort.

Riverfront Environmental Park (CREP) continues to experience beaver activity resulting in erosion and sinkhole concerns near the trail. Additional concerns included overflowing trash receptacles, ant activity, and overgrown vegetation near parking areas.

Boykin Park was reported to be clean and well maintained. Scott Park had one damaged tree and fencing material near the tennis courts requiring attention.

Kendall Park and Kendall Lake were generally in good condition. Discussion included missing solar lights, bicycle use on the walking track, and continued fishing activity near the bridge area.

Monument Square and Archives Park remained generally well maintained, although an overflowing trash can and loose railing behind the Archives building were noted.

### **Additional Business**

Members discussed future playground planning and encouraged consideration of unique playground themes, sensory elements, exercise stations, and amenities tailored to neighborhood demographics.

Discussion continued regarding memorial benches and the possibility of developing memorial tree opportunities. Elizabeth reported that City Council continues to oversee the Legacy Bench Program while considering future memorial tree options.

Concerns were raised regarding parking near the Kendall Lake fishing area and possible future improvements if feasible.

### **Community Updates**

Rickey Macklin announced the June 6 community festival, which will include games, bounce houses, horse rides, and family activities. An update was also provided regarding grant funding for a future walking trail project and potential exercise stations.

### **Staff Updates**

Elizabeth reported that Parks staff and contractors continue addressing maintenance items identified by the committee, including trash removal, fire ant treatment, and other park improvements.

Barb Willens made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded and approved.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:16 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, June 8, 2026 at 5:30 pm.