

**CITY OF LAKEVILLE
PARKS, RECREATION & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2026**

Committee Chair Weberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Lake Marion Conference Room.

Members Present: Holly Weberg, Steve Henneberry, Vicki Schwartz, Pat Sauer, Dan Volkosh, Mark Engler, Renee Brekken

Members Absent: Saima Ali, Shahid Nadeem

Staff Present: Parks and Recreation Director Joe Masiarchin, Arts Center Manager Nicki Pretzer

1. Approval of February 4, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Volkosh made a motion, seconded by Henneberry, to approve the February 4 , 2026, with correction as noted by City staff.

Ayes: unanimous

2. Citizen comments

No citizens were present.

3. Arts Center Update

Arts Center Manager, Nicki Pretzer attended the meeting to provide an update on the Lakeville Area Arts Center (LAAC).

Performing Arts

In 2025, the LAAC hosted 174 performances, including concerts at the Performing Arts Building, Live at the Lake, Pub Nights, and Coffee Concerts. It also offered 88 theater performances, such as comedy shows, dance performances, and puppet shows. Overall, more than 19,000 tickets were sold.

Visual Arts

Since acquiring the 13,500 square foot Alternative Learning Center and transitioning it to the Fine Arts Building, ceramics/pottery, painting, drawing and fiber programs have increased in offerings and number of spots available. The facility has two fully equipped ceramics studios, glazing room, open studio space and two kiln rooms. The facility also offers two rehearsal spaces, conference room, office and art shop. The new facility has allowed for:

- 300+ Fine Arts classes
- 2,000+ participants
- An 82% increase in Adult Fine Art Classes
- A 32% increase in Youth Fine Art Classes
- Summer camp offerings have expanded to include 11 weeks
- New Art History Lecture Series

Summer Program Registration is off to a good start since opening on February 12 with 484 unique enrollments and \$72,270 in program revenue. The 2025 summer registration season closed with 1,212 unique enrollments and \$181,718 in program revenue. New this year, Arts Center memberships were offered. Membership benefits include early access to seasonal enrollments and discounts on some performances and concerts.

Facility Updates

With the purchase of the Fine Arts Building, a well-loved playground was acquired, and it is due for replacement this year under the City's standard replacement schedule. The site will undergo extensive landscaping and drainage upgrades as part of the playground replacement. QA-1 donated \$90,000 towards the project, the funding will be applied to poured-in-place surface material and the playground will be fully accessible. A sculpture designed by Greg Mueller, commissioned by the Friends of the Lakeville Area Arts Center (FLAAC), will also be installed at the playground. The addition of an art fence designed by Yardly Arts will provide a unique play experience for the frequent visitors to the playground. The project is expected to be completed this summer.

A new gas kiln was donated by the FLAAC, this addition will allow for extended firing times and increase in glaze color results. Renovations to the building were made including driveway improvements, a new garage door and kiln room renovation. A Glowforge Laser Cutter was partially funded by the FLAAC and Delmar Co. The new equipment was utilized for the 2025 Community Art Project and will also be used for pottery programs.

Committee Discussion

Committee members asked for an update on the success of Gap Care and all-day summer camp offerings. Gap Care has taken a couple of years to get off the ground. This is the second summer that a full 11-week summer camp schedule with Gap Care is being offered. Registration is going steady and staff does not anticipate having to cancel any sessions of Gap Care this year. In staff's experience, Lakeville as a community leverages all-day camps with Gap Care are most popular Monday-Thursday but staff will continue to monitor registration and make adjustments based on enrollment trends.

Have comedy performances done well? There has been enough interest to continue offering comedy performances, staff is exploring new performers to see what is popular in the community. The Looney Lutherans are scheduled to perform in May, 53 tickets have been sold so far.

How are performers chosen for the playbill? Staff tries to stay up to date on market trends, word of mouth and recommendations from patrons. There is an application process and staff reviews these on a regular basis.

How is revenue driven? Staff tries to remain within the market or lower than comparable communities. Incremental increases to fees have been made where feasible and the cost of additional supplies is taken into consideration when setting fees. Programs must be self-funded, including facility, staff, and supply costs. Part of the Arts Center's mission is to provide programming opportunities to as much of the Lakeville community and the wider area.

Are there opportunities to purchase art? Yes, several art shows are hosted each year, including the Pan-O-Prog and Holiday Arts Shows and the Annual Art Festival. Staff at the Fine Arts Building has recently overhauled their art shop which is open to the public whenever the facility is open. Art pieces are also available for purchase in the Performing Arts Building as space allows.

4. Splash Pad Policy Discussion

Staff presented a draft splash pad policy in preparation for the opening of Grand Prairie Park. The policy outlines general public usage and guidelines for organizations using the facility. The intention is to ensure that the neighbors and the Lakeville community have predominant access to the facility and that it is not over-utilized by large groups. Staff has determined that Tuesdays and Thursdays are designated organization days; day cares, school groups, and other field trip groups must purchase a usage permit for groups of 15 or more. A limited number of organization permits will be allowed on these days.

Committee Discussion

The committee asked about the opening time and season. 10 a.m. daily opening time was chosen to allow Park Maintenance staff enough time to test chemicals and complete other maintenance duties. If adjustments are needed, this allows plenty of time. If there is the ability to extend the open season, staff will do so.

What will happen if groups show up without having purchased a permit? Staff will manage usage as we are able and groups will be asked to purchase a permit or leave. Groups that are at the facility outside of the designated group days will be asked to leave. Staff believe that it is important to set good habits this first year. There is permanent signage posted at the park with this information.

Can the general public use the splash pad on group days? Yes, the facility is always open to the public. A group usage permit does not allow for exclusive access to the facility or any other amenities located at the park.

Other recommendations of changes to the policy were made, including marijuana in the prohibited substances list, clarification on where alcohol is allowed in the park, and other items. Staff will make adjustments to the policy before posting to the City's website.

5. Staff Report

This year's Advisory Appreciation Dinner is tentatively scheduled to be held at Grand Prairie Park during a town ball game. Additional details will be sent out to the committee in the coming weeks.

Construction at Grand Prairie Park continues with the main building and field support building nearing completion. The grandstand is tentatively scheduled to be complete by mid-May, the roof installation and remaining steel work is currently underway. The pickleball courts, playground and challenge course will open once the pickleball court nets are installed. Signage will be installed to clearly mark active construction areas for the public. The splash pad will open going into Memorial Day weekend and a park grand opening has been scheduled for June 1.

The plans and specifications for the Lake Marion Greenway Trail are set to go out to bid in the next couple of weeks. Project construction will begin after July 1.

The East Community Park Phase II bid package will be released to bidders late this week.

6. Other Business

No other business.

Sauer made a motion, seconded by Volkosh, to adjourn the March 4, 2026 meeting.

Ayes: unanimous

7. Adjourn

Meeting 7:30 p.m.