

CITY OF LAKEVILLE
PARKS, RECREATION & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2026

Members Present: Angie Lueschen, Holly Weberg, Vicki Schwartz, Dan Volkosh, Mark Engler, Pat Sauer, Rachel Bland

Members Absent: NA

Staff Present: Parks and Recreation Director Joe Masiarchin, Parks & Recreation Intern Eli Laufenburger, Recreation Manager Susah Johnson

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of May 20, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Sauer made a motion, seconded by Engler, to approve the May 20, 2026, with corrections as noted to City staff.

Ayes: unanimous

3. Citizen Comments

No citizens were present.

4. Discussion Items

a. Parks & Recreation Summer Intern Update

Parks and Recreation Summer Intern, Eli Laufenburger, presented an update on how he has been supporting the department so far this summer with a number of initiatives and special projects. Eli is the first department intern in several years, though other City departments consistently retain summer interns. So far this summer, Eli has supported Recreation programs, park operations, and special events, including the Grand Opening of Grand Prairie Park, Fun Run and July 4 celebration, Bocce Tournament and planning a back-to-school movie night. Eli is currently working on a larger-scale AED rollout. He will be working with staff to identify future AED locations and to facilitate installation with a contractor and Park Maintenance. He will return to Bethel University this fall.

b. Parks System Master Plan and Facility Update

As part of the Parks System Master Plan, a Facility Study was added to the process to discuss Lakeville's indoor facility needs. Two project team meetings have been held so far, this group includes staff, members of advisory and civic groups and the consultant. A series of stakeholder meetings focusing on indoor user groups have also been held to determine what their future needs would be. Most recently, an online survey was sent out via Constant Contact to various user groups, including recreation program participants, renters, athletic associations, and others who would provide valuable feedback on indoor facility needs. A total of 803 responses were received, the results were recently presented at the July 6 City Council meeting. A statistically valid will be completed later this year.

Key takeaways from the survey included:

- Favorable response to Lakeville needing a community center
- The Lakeville Area Arts Center and Ed Mako Environmental Learning Center scored well overall on meeting the needs of the community
- Individual and group fitness, a walking track, indoor courts and indoor turf space were all identified as desired additions to Lakeville's facilities
- Spaces for special interest groups such as seniors and teens were identified as community needs
- Indoor playground, room rentals and banquet/event rentals were identified as community needs

Staff will be working with the consultant and project team to develop a statistically valid survey. The next project team meeting will be scheduled for mid-August.

Committee Discussion:

Why wasn't a pool or aquatic center included in the survey? The intention in excluding this was to ensure genuine community interest before exploring the construction of this amenity.

Recommended ensuring that the statistically valid survey calls aren't screened out as spam. The consultant who will facilitate the survey is the market expert; the City also worked with them during the 2021 Park Bond Referendum and is confident in their ability to reach residents.

5. Park Projects Update & Staff Report

Construction of East Community Park Phase II began in late June, earthwork and tree removals are currently underway. A proposal from Kompani is going to the July 20 City Council meeting for a custom designed horse play feature. The project will continue this year and is anticipated to open in 2027.

Construction of the Lake Marion Greenway Trail is progressing; the downtown Lakeville to Ritter Farm Park segment is scheduled to be completed this year, in late September.

6. Other Business

No other business.

Volkosh made a motion, seconded by Bland, to adjourn the July 15, 2026 meeting.

Ayes: unanimous

7. Adjourn

Meeting 7:16 p.m.