



September 2, 2025 - Park Board Meeting Minutes

Present: Ms. Gibson, Chair, Ms. Ott, Ms. Knighton, Ms. Wagstaff, Ms. McGhie, and Ms. Powell

Present via Zoom: Ms. Orr, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Norden

Absent: Ms. Brett, Ms. Devins, and Ms. Sutherland

Also Present: Chris Deaver, Heinen Landscape and Irrigation; John McLenon, Rosehill Gardens; Meghan Woolbright, Assistant City Administrator; Cole Carmack, City Arborist and Park Coordinator; and Councilperson Thorne (Liaison)

Meeting called to order at 12:06 p.m.

I. Approval of Minutes May 28 and June 18, 2025 - approved as corrected.

Minor corrections to previous meeting minutes are discussed, including correcting the spelling of "Eddie Island" to "Eddy Island" and updating "Mr. Reed" to "Mr. Dillon."

II. Maintenance Reports

Mr. Heinen reports that drainage work at Three Trails has been completed and is functioning well. Grass renovation is ongoing, with challenges from fungus, drought, and armyworms. The stakes for proposed bollards at Colonial Court are still in place. Ms. Woolbright states that the design submitted to the ARB was withdrawn due to concerns by the ARB and neighboring residents. The ARB suggested changes to the design such as incorporating stonewalls to encase the bollards or chains to connect the bollards, or placing bollards inside bushes. The Park Board and Ms. Thorne, liaison, discuss the possibility of going to City Council for support and consider hosting a public meeting to gather additional resident feedback. Mr. Carmack states that webworms have been treated by Country Club Tree Service on some city trees and have affected several honey locusts this year due to wet conditions. Ms. Ott suggests including edging and consistent mulching around new tree plantings. Mr. Heinen and Mr. Carmack agree to plan for this in future plantings. Mr. McLenon presents the annuals list for the upcoming year.

Mr. Carmack provides a forestry update: bagworm treatments have been expanded, the Dappled Willow has been pruned, and new plantings are planned for the fall. Brush clearing has taken place along Hiawasse Park's creek. Mr. Carmack recommends putting the creek areas on a 3-5-year maintenance cycle.

A. Tomahawk Road Homes Association (TRHA)

Ms. Allen states a desire to meet with the TRHA group and Mr. Heinen to revisit the replacement of the "snarl" dog statue on 4 Seasons Island. Discussion returns to Three Trails Island; hydrangeas are slow to establish but are improving, and Japanese anemones are off to a good start. Ms. Allen requests more information regarding Eisenhower Pond; the board awaits a final engineering report, which is expected in October. Ms. Allen states that the water lilies are intended to crowd out the algae and that they should no longer be harmed by spraying, if possible.

B. Mission Hills Homes Company (MHHC)

Ms. Wagstaff raises concern about the 55th and Mission statue and the new maintenance that is supposed to be done. Ms. Woolbright notes the STRATA team is reviewing the condition of the fountain and states that early indications show the statue at the 55th Street fountain is structurally sound, but the bowl may need replacement, and the pedestal may as well. A full report is expected in October. Ms. Gibson brings up the lack of progress at Sunken Garden, where approved plantings have not occurred. Members express concern over the visual impact of exposed electrical boxes at Sunken Gardens. Mr. Dillon's landscape proposal is delayed, and communication has been minimal. The group expresses interest in camouflaging utilities and clarifying the next steps. Ms. Orr brings up the proposed donation of a large ornate fountain by a homeowner behind Sunken Garden. Members agree it is too elaborate for Sunken Garden and consider declining the offer unless a clear use is found. Ms. Woolbright noted that Mr. Benson, conservator, may have another potential recipient if the City declines. The cost of removal and storage is also a concern.

Ms. Woolbright noted that Mr. Benson has announced that he will retire after the season. His successor, Jillian Colrain, is a trained conservator and is currently working alongside him to ensure a smooth transition. The board is considering inviting both to a future meeting to answer questions and review fountain-related concerns.

C. Indian Hills Homes Association (IHHA)

Ms. Knighton requests updates including ivy removal at Three Trails and Eddy Island, concerns about nitrogen levels in the Missouri River, and the impact of stormwater runoff from mowing and fertilization practices. The board agrees to include reminders in newsletters.

IV. New Business City 's 2025 Capital Improvement Projects

No additional items were discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

