

MINUTES

Recreation Advisory Board/Tree Board/Little League Board Department of Parks and Recreation

The Recreation Advisory Board/Tree City USA Board/Little League Board met in a scheduled meeting on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 12:00 pm.

Upon a call the following members were present:

Ron Starr, Bob Miller, Mary Scudder, Linda Long, Larry Rhodes, and Moises Contreras

Upon a roll call the following members were absent: Addison Butler

The following staff members were present:

Matt Siniard, Derek Phillips, Reya Ingraham-Curtiss, Leah Goins, and Anthony Raper

The following guests were present:

Austin Sauerbrei

The following decisions were made and ordered as part of the records of the Recreation Advisory Board/Tree City USA Board/ Little League Board.

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MINUTES

12:00pm- Minutes for the scheduled meeting held on April 16, 2026, were handed out and reviewed with no changes suggested.

Motion made by Bob Miller, seconded by Larry Rhodes to approve the minutes.

Motion Carried.

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NEW BUSINESS

North City Property - 12:05pm

Austin Sauerbrei with SOCM addressed the board members and director concerning the community's wants for the North City Property. He stated that based on door-to-door surveys around the area, the residents are favoring the idea of a community center. The residents in the area shared they do not want the land to be sold for private use as there's a desperate need for youth and family activities in the North City Community. Guests and members of the board discussed how the North City Area has very little for the community, families, and children compared to other areas within the city and could benefit greatly from a community center or park. Austin informed the board and Matt that these ideas were also brought to the council during a work session to designate the property as public park space. The director, Matt Siniard, mentioned we are still currently upkeeping the property. Larry Rhodes made a motion to acquire the property at North City and for the city attorney to review as to what is the best legal designation for it, seconded by Ron Starr. Motion carried.

Upcoming Projects - 12:35pm

Director, Matt Siniard, spoke on the 2026-2027 budget being approved and Soap Box Derby not being removed as a program through the city. He also spoke on the potential addition of dugout covers and shade coverage at Regional Park. Lastly, he discussed the Cook Park parking plans.

Moving to the Conference Center – 12:50pm

Matt Siniard informed the board of the Parks and Recreation department's move from City Hall to the Conference Center in Athens Regional Park. He discussed the timeline and preparations that were happening to get ready to move.

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REPORTS

No Reports

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.