

Meeting Notes – Regular Meeting of the

City of Columbia City Park Board

Park Office, 400 N. Whitley St.

Monday, June 22, 2026

I. Call To Order

- a. Mark Ellis called the meeting to order

II. Roll Call

- a. Members: Kim Varga, Roger Ferrell, Mark Ellis, Jeremy Platt
- b. Park Superintendent: Matt Heiden
- c. Absent: Karen Koday

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Mark called for approval of minutes, and Kim seconded with all approving aye

IV. Communication/Acceptance of Agenda

V. Old Business

- a. OnTurf had their major tournament of 50+ teams. Everything was able to go successfully.
- b. Dog Park Updates and Rules
 - i. The 2 drinking stations have been delivered and are going to be installed.
 - ii. The fencing is almost complete. We are waiting for the locking system to come in.
 - iii. We will still need to get a dog washing station and a shade structure built for people to be able to watch their dogs from.
 - iv. There was discussion about maybe adding some obstacle courses once the park opens.
 - v. Membership Pricing needs to be reasonable, but it would be able to cover the cost of the locking system and maintenance of the dog park.
 - 1. Resident fee - \$40 a dog a year and \$10 for each additional dog
 - a. Jeremy motioned for this pricing and all voted aye
 - 2. Non-Resident fee - \$50 a dog a year and \$10 for each additional dog
 - a. Mark motioned for this pricing and all voted aye
 - 3. Residents are defined as someone who lives within Columbia City limits.

4. There is a max of 3 dogs allowed per person.
- vi. Everyone will have to provide each dogs vaccination records before receiving a code for the dog park.
 1. If someone receives a physical key and loses it, then there will be a \$10 replacement fee.
- vii. There was discussion about what to do if someone brings a small and a large dog and how they should divide their dogs up. Nothing was decided at this time.
- viii. There was much discussion about when memberships should start and expire. There were 2 options of whether it should begin on January 1st or be based off the dog's vaccination records. Nothing was decided at this time.

VI. New Business

- a. Extra blocks for potential dugouts
 - i. There are some extra blocks from the construction of Fields 3 and 4's dugouts. Will be using the extra blocks to reconstruct and modify Fields 5 and 6's dugouts to help prevent them from flooding.
- b. Getting quotes for Tennis Courts
 - i. It has been concluded that there is a sewer line that runs under the back 4 courts. Due to the shallowness of the ground, the back 4 courts will always crack and be a continuous issue.
 - ii. There was much discussion about what to do with the tennis courts. No decision was made at this time.
 1. Option 1 is to take the back 4 courts out and replace them with something else.
 2. Option 2 is to keep resurfacing the tennis courts and making them to be in the best condition possible every year.
- c. Prayer tents in Morsches Park
 - i. There is a group of Pastors from different churches that would like to set up a prayer tent in Morsches to pray for people
 - ii. There was much discussion about this, but no decision was made. Park Board is going to ask that the pastors visit them in person during the next meeting or submit their plans for what they would like to do on paper. Park Board did agree on the following rules for the pastors.
 1. The pastors would not be allowed to approach people or make people feel pressured.
 2. The pastors would not be able to use this time to preach in the park.

- d. Scoreboards at the baseball diamonds
 - i. Scoreboards are in bad condition and the remotes for them have already been replaced twice this year. This has cost \$1200 to replace.
 - ii. There was much discussion about possibly using Gamechanger instead of having scoreboards.
 - 1. Gamechanger is potentially a less expensive option with monthly subscription costs than replacing the scoreboards and parts.
 - 2. It would also provide better game experience for the audience and for those whose family is unable to attend an in-person game.
 - 3. Gamechanger would also help keep stricter tracking of the boy's pitch counts per game. This would better protect their arms and health.
- e. Remodeling the Quad building at Morsches
 - i. The building was never fully constructed and resulted in structural issues and rotting. Matt proposed to remodel the building and complete the inside main area. The stairway would be moved to the outside of the building creating an outdoor balcony.
 - ii. The outdoor area will be used to eventually hang new lights on the field
 - 1. Will need to put foul ball netting up to protect this area
 - iii. The Quad building also houses our electrical room and is utilized by our umpires
 - iv. OnTurf is interested in seeing this remodeled and is willing to help pay for it.
 - 1. Other sponsorship and partnership opportunities were briefly discussed
 - v. No decision was made at this time

VII. Consultation/Discussion

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Roger motioned for the meeting to be adjourned. Kim seconded the motion and all voted aye.

Minutes submitted by: Emilee Button, Administrative Assistant