

CITY OF COLUMBUS  
PARK BOARD MEETING  
INTERACTIVE MEETING FORMAT  
STATUTES SECTION 13D.021  
03-25-2025

The 03-25-2025 Park Board meeting for the City of Columbus was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Brad Norling at the City of Columbus City Hall. Present were Board members Andrea Messina, Steven Ray, and Bob Bodene.

City Council Liaison Mayor Ron Hanegraaf, City Administrator Jack Davis, Assistant Planner Eleanor Hahn, Public Works Director Jim Windingstad, and Recording Secretary Lorie Spangler, were also present.

Absent: Kris King

Also Present: Lea Genosky, FLAFA President

AGENDA APPROVAL:

**Motion** by Norling to approve Park Board agenda for 03-25-2025 meeting as presented.

**Second** by Messina.

Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Messina – aye; Bodene – aye, and Norling – aye.

All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF PARK BOARD MINUTES:

**Motion** by Norling to approve the minutes of the 1-21-2025 Park Board meeting.

**Second** by Messina.

Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Messina – aye; Bodene – aye; Norling – aye.

All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM:

No-one present for open forum.

DISCUSSION:

**FLAFA:** Lea Genosky, President of Forest Lake Area Fastpitch Association (FLAFA), was present to discuss dug outs for the Columbus fields. Genosky informed the park board that she presented their request to the Forest Lake Athletic Association (FLAA) board that Columbus Park Board is interested in installing dugouts for their fields and is requesting donated funds from FLAA to be put towards the construction. Genosky shared with the board that FLAA stated they would be willing to participate, and she felt their offer of \$5,000.00 was a good starting point. Windingstad informed the board that the bid that was discussed at the last meeting was approximately \$40,000 for two fields. Norling stated that it may be fiscally reasonable to consider doing one field a year. Genosky stated that she would like to see some sort of field guarantee or price lock for compensation for donated funds. Norling inquired about the future of FLAFA's use of Columbus fields. Genosky updated the board that it will be about 5 years before Forest Lake implements the plan to where they will be required to use Forest Lake fields exclusively. Windingstad inquired if FLAA donated funds in 2025 and the board decided not to go forward with construction until 2026, would FLAA allow Columbus

to keep those funds to put towards 2026 construction. Genosky stated she did not see a problem with that scenario but would confirm with the FLAA board. Bodene asked if the \$5,000 was per field or per year. Genosky reiterated it is a starting amount and FLAA could decide to give more and possibly a similar amount each year to build on another field. Hanegraaf inquired if FLAA would be interested in going dollar for dollar, adding there may be an opportunity to allow FLAFA to offer concessions which in turn would be a fundraising revenue stream for the organization. Hanegraaf also stated they could work something out with the Columbus Lions who are already providing concessions for their tournament. Genosky will be presenting our ideas at their upcoming board meeting April 13 and will provide us with an update from that meeting.

**Park Maintenance:**

Windingstad informed the board that he contacted 6 contractors for bids for park maintenance and mowing, and only 3 responded. All 3 bids were considerably high and through discussion with Administrator Davis, it was determined that the park/field maintenance and mowing will be done in-house by public works staff. Most equipment is already available through the department; however, a mower will need to be purchased, and this discussion will be presented to the Council this week for approval. He stated he will continue to seek out part-time seasonal interests. Public works staff will meet with Ryan, the previous park services provider, next week and go over procedures for park/field maintenance.

**Park Master Plan Update:**

Assistant Planner Hahn provided a draft of the Parks and Trails Master Plan for the board to review and send comments back to her. The vision statement, goals and policies are listed in the draft along with existing conditions and community needs assessment that were derived from the survey a few years prior. Hahn requested the board review the City Park Implementation Strategy and timeline for further discussion.

Norling suggested to the board to take time to review this by each member and go through it more thoroughly at the next meeting, bringing their input for discussion. Norling added that a subcommittee meeting will be scheduled before the next scheduled meeting to review this framework and have items to discuss at the next meeting as well.

**Tennis Court:**

Windingstad referred to the Bolton & Menk handout describing a proposal for professional services relating to the resurfacing of the existing tennis courts. He explained the costs associated with their services. Presently we have received standards and drawings to use for bidding purposes. Davis and Windingstad discussed using Bolton & Menk to do the bidding services as well. These services would cost approximately \$1,800.00. The project is to utilize the existing footprint with two options: two tennis courts with markings for pickleball, or one tennis court and two pickleball courts. These bids will come back to the board for discussion. Windingstad mentioned to the board that once the asphalt is fresh and surface oils are still present, it is better to wait to apply the acrylic paint for the designated lines for better adhesion and favorable results. Therefore, Windingstad shared an option to play the season out and then close the courts and proceed with the construction and paint the lines in the spring. The proposed schedule is to have Bolton & Menk go out for bids and present them to the board for which plan to bring forward to Council the first week of June for approval, with start of construction in September. Norling expressed that he supports using the engineer services for specs

and bidding.

**Preliminary Budget:** City Administrator Davis shared with the board that the tree project will be paid out of the capital improvement plan that allowed \$10,000.00. The final bill was \$15,000.00 so the remainder of the funds needed will be allocated to the carry over fund from last years budget in the CIP fund. If the tennis court bid comes in at the previously projected amount of \$130,000.00 there will be approximately a \$38,000.00 shortfall which will be brought to the council to discuss options. Norling stated the replacement of playground equipment that is projected for 2026 will need to be pushed out for another 2 more years to build up the fund. Davis stated that a discussion on obtaining additional revenues for the parks is essential to improve the park but to also just maintain what they have, adding that parks have been underfunded in the past. He also mentioned having an updated park master plan could be an additional source of grants funds.

Norling recommended having a joint City Council/Park Board meeting to discuss budget and future funding needs. Davis suggested scheduling this at the July board meeting. Norling also added that a dedicated conversation regarding the future of the dugouts should take place so that the board can respond back to FLAFA with their request on freezing fees or exclusive use and how much FLAA is willing to donated and if they would consider dollar for dollar option.

**PARK BOARD MEMBERS OPEN DISCUSSION:**

Mayor Hanegraaf commented on the increased dog mess in the park and his displeasure of those not picking up after their animals. He also noted the signs “Pick up after your dogs” are showing their age and recommended them to be replaced as they are faded and difficult to read.

**NEXT MEETING:**

The next scheduled park board meeting is Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

**ADJORN:**

**Motion** made by Norling to adjourn.

**Second** by Bodene.

Roll call vote: Ray – aye; Messina – aye; Bodene – aye; Norling – aye.

All in favor, motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Lorie Spangler, Deputy Clerk