



City of Northfield

City Hall
801 Washington Street
Northfield, MN 55057
northfieldmn.gov

Meeting Minutes - Final Park & Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, July 21, 2025

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

6:00 PM - REGULAR AGENDA CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Lauer called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: 5 - Board Member Peder Jothen, Vice Chair Krissa Anderson, Chair Aaron Lauer, Board Member Russell Bauer and Board Member Kathleen Holmes

Absent: 3 - Board Member Adam Olson, Board Member Zachary Bohar and Board Member Isaac Rich

Also present: David Bennett, Public Works Director and City Engineer; Andrew Tussing, Interim Streets and Parks Manager; Melissa Bernhard, Northfield City Schools Recreation Coordinator; Matt Bailey, Meeting Associate

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Vice Chair Anderson, seconded by Board Member Jothen, to approve the agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Jothen, Vice Chair Anderson, Chair Lauer, Board Member Bauer and Board Member Holmes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [25-389](#) March 17, 2025 PRAB Meeting Minutes.

A motion was made by Board Member Holmes, seconded by Vice Chair Anderson, to approve the March 17, 2025 PRAB Meeting Minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Jothen, Vice Chair Anderson, Chair Lauer, Board Member Bauer and Board Member Holmes

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

REGULAR AGENDA

2. [25-390](#) Consider Motion approving the Riverside Park Playground Improvement.

Public Works Director and City Engineer David Bennett introduced Bruce Jacobson, community development consultant to the City, who delivered a presentation on the Riverside Park Playground Improvement. Bennett and Jacobson responded to questions

and comments from the PRAB regarding funding, the construction materials and security of site furniture, the functionality of the rain garden, the capacity of the swing sets, and the materials of the "branches and burlap" play area.

CC Linstroth, representing Age Friendly Northfield, spoke in favor of accessibility of the landscape features for older citizens and offered the organizations support in achieving this.

The Board then considered a motion to approve the improvement plans and provided additional comment on the plans.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Anderson, seconded by Board Member Jothen, to approve the Riverside Park Playground Improvement. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Jothen, Vice Chair Anderson, Chair Lauer, Board Member Bauer and Board Member Holmes

PRESENTATIONS

3. [25-391](#) PRAB Update-Discussion of Riverside-Lions Park Restrooms.

Public Works Director and City Engineer David Bennett introduced Bruce Jacobson, community development consultant to the City, who delivered a presentation on issues regarding the accessibility of Riverside-Lions Park Restrooms and options for improvement. Bennett and Jacobson responded to questions and comments from the PRAB regarding the picnic shelters and locations of restrooms, sources of funding, the location of the pickleball courts in relation to the restrooms, the open hours of the restrooms, long-term plans for the lawn area west of the pickleball courts, and expansion of the parking in Sechler Park.

4. [25-392](#) PRAB receives and update on skateboard park grant award

Public Works Director and City Engineer David Bennett reported on the receipt of a grant for the construction of the skateboard park in Memorial Park.

STAFF UPDATES

5. [25-393](#) Staff Reports.

Interim Streets and Parks Manager Andrew Tussing presented updates from City staff. Tussing and Public Works Director and City Engineer David Bennett responded to comments and questions from the PRAB concerning an email sent to members or PRAB regarding rules of the pickleball courts and geese problems at the courts.

Northfield Public Schools Recreation Coordinator Melissa Bernhard presented an update on summer recreation programs and responded to comments and questions from the PRAB concerning air quality during sports and outdoor activities.

BOARD MEMBER AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS

PRAB and City Council member Kathleen Holmes reported that the City Council will be discussing the relocation of the City's archery field to Meadows Park at their July 22, 2025 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Board Member Holmes, seconded by Board Member Bauer, to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Board Member Jochen, Vice Chair Anderson, Chair Lauer, Board Member Bauer and Board Member Holmes