Agenda
City of Minnetonka
Park Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2026
6:00 PM
Community Center - Minnehaha Room
14600 Minnetonka Blvd.

Park Board Vision:
An inclusive city with outstanding parks and recreational opportunities within a healthy and biodiverse natural environment.

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
   - A. June 3, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
   - B. September 2, 2026 Joint City Council and Park Board Study Session Minutes
5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda
6. Special Matters
7. Business Items
   - A. Shady Oak Beach Season Summary
8. Reports from Staff
   - A. Information Items
   - B. Upcoming Meeting Schedule
9. Park Board Member Reports
10. Adjournment

Park Board
Agenda Item 4.A
Meeting of October 7, 2026

Title:	June 3, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Strategic Plan Goal:	N/A
Action Requested:	Motion
Form of Action:	Minutes

Summary Statement
Approve the June 3, 2026 minutes

Recommended Action
Motion to approve the minutes

ATTACHMENT(S):
Draft Regular Meeting Minutes_June 3, 2026

Minutes
Minnetonka Park Board
Wednesday, June 3, 2026

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Park board members present: Jennifer Christie, David Ingraham, Erik Kowalski, Caleb Schultz, Katie Semersky.

Park board members absent: Anne Hanley, Brad Lehrman.

Staff members in attendance: Darin Ellingson, Matt Kumka, Kelly O'Dea, and Leslie Yetka.

Chair Ingraham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

3. Approval of Agenda

Christie moved, Semersky seconded a motion to approve the meeting agenda of June 3, 2026 as amended with addenda for Items 7.A and 7.B . All voted "yes." Motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Ingraham requested his comment at the top of page 4 be rewritten.

Christie moved, Semersky seconded a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 6, 2026 as amended. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

5. Citizens wishing to discuss items not on the agenda

Raina Greene, 5911 Covington Court, thanked the commission for their service to the city. She addressed the commission regarding the bridge that would have to be removed in her neighborhood. She indicated her neighborhood would like to keep the bridge in place in order to access the park and noted it would be an inconvenience for those living in the neighborhood if the bridge were removed.

6. Special Matters

There were none.

7. Business Items

A. Review of the 2027-2031 Capital Improvements Program (CIP)

Recreation Director Kelly O'Dea and Park and Trail Project Manager Matt Kumka gave the staff report.

Schultz supported the city opening the Cullen Nature Preserve, even if only phase 1 can be funded and completed at this time. He anticipated it was very rare for a new open space park to open fully versus needing phased work. Kumka stated this was a very unique park noting typically areas of parks are opened before they are restored. He discussed the city has the opportunity to do something grand, but would be taking direction from the board and city council.

Kowalski questioned how the phases would be completed. Kumka reported the phases would be tied to funding from the city each year.

Semersky thanked staff for working with the finance department on the budget and funding for the Cullen Nature Preserve.

Schultz inquired if the limestone trails would be ADA accessible. Kumka reported the limestone or crushed granite trails would be ADA accessible.

Ingraham stated he was pleased the city has dollars available for the Cullen Nature Preserve.

Street and Park Operations Manager Darin Ellingson provided the board with an update on the ADA plan for the city's parks and commented on how the improvements would be phased.

Schultz thanked staff for integrating the ADA improvements for the city's parks into the CIP. He asked that the board be updated on the improvements that are completed on a yearly basis.

Ingraham requested staff update the numbers within the CIP for Shady Oak Park.

Christie encouraged staff to continue to pursue grant funding for the Cullen Nature Preserve.

Ingraham asked if the boardwalk at the Cullen Nature Preserve would be a composite material. Kumka reported this would be the case.

Ingraham opened the meeting for public comments.

Jerrold Gershone, 13936 Oakland Place, explained he lived six blocks north of the Cullen Nature Preserve. He discussed the great work being completed by the

Friends group and thanked the board for requesting full funding for the preserve. He explained he was concerned about setting the right tone for visitors to the preserve noting he did not want there to be misuse of the space. He did not want there to be unauthorized trails for disturbance of nesting birds. He encouraged the park board to hold off on the opening of the Cullen Nature Preserve until all phases were fully completed. He suggested the phases be completed in the next two years and that the preserve then be open to the public with the project fully completed.

Ingraham closed the meeting for public comments.

Semersky asked what the next step was for this plan. Kumka reported the next step would be for the CIP to be reviewed by the city council. O'Dea explained the council would be reviewing the CIP on June 15.

Christie moved, Schultz seconded a motion to direct staff to forward the 2027-2031 Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) to the City Council. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

B. Big Willow Park Master Plan Update

Parks and Trail Project Manager Matt Kumka gave the staff report.

Christie thanked staff for taking the board's feedback into consideration, noting she greatly appreciated the kayak/canoe landing area.

Ingraham questioned where the canoe landing area would be located. Kumka reviewed the location of the canoe landing area along the creek.

Ingraham stated he believed the master planning process for Big Willow Park has been a tremendous success and he appreciated the shift in location for the dog park. He indicated he also liked the proposed picnic areas.

Ingraham opened the meeting for public comments.

Claudia Gundlach, 12901 Burwell Drive, stated she lived across the street from the existing parking lot. She explained she reviewed these plans with staff yesterday. She anticipated not everyone on her block had a chance to review the updated plans. She was of the opinion this would be a great park, but had concerns with how the wildlife near Minnehaha Creek would be impacted. She believed the kayak launch area was much improved, but questioned if the grade to the creek was too steep. She commented further on how the addition of people to the creek would also impact wildlife near the creek. She suggested an environmental impact study be completed for this park. She indicated she was also concerned with how the creek would be degraded by dog waste from the dog park area.

Dee Brandt, resident of Minnetonka, addressed the board regarding the dog park. She discussed how the dog park was adjacent to Minnetonka Boulevard with no buffer. She commented on how dogs escape dog parks on a regular basis and noted the proposed location may be dangerous. She indicated an escaped dog would put a dog in traffic within seconds. She asked if the park would be lit in the winter evening hours. She stated she had traffic concerns for those entering and exiting onto Minnetonka Boulevard during peak times. She questioned if the park had adequate parking for dog owners and other visitors to the park. She reported the area selected for the dog park was the most beautiful space within the park. She did not want dog waste running off into the creek and expressed concern with how the wildlife in the park would be impacted by the proposed dog park. In addition, she did want to see the trees within the park impacted through the proposed improvements. She suggested the city reconsider the need for a kayak launch noting the city already had six other locations to launch a kayak. While she supported the city investing in this park, she recommended the kayak launch and the location of the dog park be reconsidered.

Evan Everist, resident of Minnetonka, explained he visits Big Willow Park on a daily basis with his dogs. He thanked the city for taking feedback regarding the proposed improvements for this park. He stated he loved this park and appreciated the close access to nature. He suggested the dog park location be reconsidered because he did not want the wildlife or creek to be impacted. He questioned if the park needed more off leash dogs.

Ingraham closed the meeting for public comments.

Schultz requested further information regarding the trees in the dog park area. Kumka reported the dog park area has legacy oaks with turf grass underneath the trees.

Semersky inquired if there were any other options on the north side of town for a dog park. Kumka reported city hall and Moody Park were being considered, but noted both of these parks had established oak trees and were on the creek as well.

Staff Liaison/Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka reported the proposed improvements for this park would be reviewed for environmental impacts and would need to meet city requirements. She commented all city stormwater management requirements would be met through the proposed improvements. She discussed how a wetland buffer would be in place adjacent to the dog park area along the creek. She provided further comment on how the trees would be protected throughout the improvement project.

Further discussion ensued regarding the kayak/canoe launches that were within close proximity to Big Willow Park.

C. Park System Areas of Need Discussion

Park and Trail Project Manager Matt Kumka gave the staff report.

Schultz stated he wanted to see this plan made more formal. He wanted to see the priority areas elevated in order to address the significant inequities.

Ingraham indicated he never understood Page 45 within this plan and commented on the park areas within the city that he was unfamiliar with. He was of the opinion the city has not willfully ignored certain areas of the city.

Christie thanked staff for completing this analysis and stated she was proud of the fact there were only three areas of concern.

Semersky agreed noting she was pleased the city only had three areas of concern.

8. Reports from Staff

A. Information Items – None

B. Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Staff Liaison/Natural Resources Manager Yetka and Recreation Director Kelly O'Dea gave the staff report.

9. Park Board Member Report

Ingraham thanked student commissioner Erik Kowalski for his service on the park board and wished him all the best in the future.

10. Adjournment

Christie moved, Semersky seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Aleman
Public Works Administrative Manager

Park Board
Agenda Item 4.B
Meeting of October 7, 2026

Title:	September 2, 2026 Joint City Council and Park Board Study Session Minutes

Action Requested:	Motion
Form of Action:	Minutes

Summary Statement
Approve the September 2, 2026 Joint Park Board and City Council Study Session minutes

Recommended Action
Motion to approve the minutes

ATTACHMENT(S):
Draft Joint Park Board City Council Study Session Minutes_Sept. 2, 2026

Minutes
Joint Park Board and City Council
Special Session and Tour
Wednesday, September 2, 2026

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Park board members present: Anne Hanley, David Ingraham, Caleb Schultz, Katie Semersky.

Park board members absent: Jennifer Christie

City council members present: Amanda Maxwell, Deb Calvert, Patsy Foster-Bolton, Kimberly Wilburn and Rebecca Schack.

City council members absent: Kissy Coakley and Paula Ramaley

Staff members in attendance: Leslie Yetka, Kelly O'Dea, Mike Funk, Sarissa Saraki, Matt Kumka, Darin Ellingson, Sara Woeste, Will Manchester, and Brad Hoese.

Chair Ingraham called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

3. Business Items

A. Youth Climate Action Fund

Staff Liaison/Natural Resources Manager Leslie Yetka and Sustainability Coordinator Ally Sutherland gave the staff report.

Hanley stated it appears the city could offer five $10,000 grants through this program. Sutherland explained the city would be able to keep 10% of the overall grant funding for administrative and communication expenses and the remainder would be available for grants. Staff hoped to complete eight sustainability projects through the grant funding.

Ingraham asked how staff would be reaching out to the schools. Sutherland indicated staff began sending informational emails at the end of July to the schools. She reported staff was beginning to get more attention on the program now that school was back in session.

Calvert indicated the projects would be completed in groups and the grants would have to be applied for by mid-October. Sutherland reported this was the timeframe.

Calvert recommended staff reach out to the Wayzata and Minnetonka School Districts. She requested further information from staff on how or why the city was able to secure this grant funding. Sutherland anticipated this was because the city had several high schools within its borders, that the city had a climate action plan in place and that there was support from several sustainability staff members within the city.

Schack encouraged staff to reach out to the students who recently received youth awards in the community. Sutherland stated she would be reaching out to these individuals. She noted staff would also be reaching out to the city's youth volunteers.

Schack suggested Optimus and the Rotary Club also be contacted by staff.

B. Opus Station Park Vision Plan

Park and Trail Project Manager Matt Kumka, Landscape Architect Sandy Meulners and Landscape Architect Olivia Halsney with Mend Collaborative gave the staff report.

Ingraham recommended the park space be programmed around the residents and workers in the Opus area. Kumka stated staff would be taken into consideration given how the park had no parking.

Schultz explained he was getting a Centennial Lakes vibe from the proposed park space. Kumka reported there were a lot of similarities to Centennial Lakes given how this project is surrounded by high density residential and office space.

Ingraham stated Shady Oak and City West have large parking areas, which would allow for parking if events were planned for within the Opus area.

Schack reported on Saturday, September 26 there would be an event in St. Louis Park at 10:00 a.m. where the opening day of the light rail will be announced.

Ingraham thanked staff for the detailed presentation and for their efforts on this project.

4. Adjournment

Semersky moved, Schultz seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 p.m. to conduct a Park Tour of Opus Station Public Space and Big Willow Park. All voted "yes." Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Aleman
Public Works Administrative Manager

Park Board
Agenda Item 7.A
Meeting of October 7, 2026

Title:	Shady Oak Beach Season Summary
Strategic Plan Goal:	To provide quality athletic and park recreational facilities and programs
Related Strategy:	Offer a full range of programs for people of all ages, ability levels, and economic and cultural backgrounds ensuring all have the opportunity to participate in both athletic activities as well as cultivating appreciation and interest in the natural world within our parks.
Action Requested:	Informational
Form of Action:	Report

Summary Statement
Staff will provide a 2026 Shady Oak Beach season summary and address comments and questions.

Recommended Action
Receive presentation and provide feedback.

Background
The 2026 Shady Oak Beach season began on Saturday, June 6, and the facility remained open through Sunday, August 16, spanning a 10-week season. The beach reopened to the public, free of charge without lifeguards and concessions, August 21 through August 27.

This season, there were 55 part-time seasonal staff across six roles including concession attendants, gate attendants, lifeguards, head lifeguards, shift leaders and two facility supervisors. The team was comprised of 21 new hires and 34 returning staff from previous seasons. Returning staff received an increase of 3% in their hourly wage. Overall, there were 160 applicants for seasonal beach positions. Between all positions during the 10-week season, a total of 700 training hours were worked. In addition, there were approximately 825 hours worked during pre-season trainings and set-up and post-season tear-down activities at the beach facility.

The beach partnered with two local food vendors this year, Freeziac (frozen yogurt) and Boba Tonka (bubble tea) for concessions sales. New items on the menu included hamburgers and cheeseburgers with bacon and chicken strips. The top selling item was the large freezee, selling 1,792 with the next item being the soft pretzels with 978 sold.

With a fully staffed lifeguard team this season, the Wibit obstacle course was open to guests every day of the week from 1-5 p.m. Due to the Wibit popularity, it is a goal is to expand the type of water obstacles that are offered in the future. The departmen acquired a Hennepin County Youth Grant for $9,770 that will be used in 2027 towards new inflatables. Hopkins also acquired a grant to replace all the toilets for the facility for 2027.

On Friday, July 17, Shady Oak Beach hosted it's first annual Teen Night. The beach was still open and accessible to everyone that evening. The night was filled with games and activities that allowed patrons of all ages to participate, resulting in an enjoyable family night for all.

A staff highlight of the summer was the Shady Oak Beach Lifeguard team's 1st place victory at the Lifeguard Olympics, out of 18 teams from surrounding cities. This event evaluated lifesaving skills, first aid, teamwork and lifeguard knowledge. The lifeguards have competed in this event for the last four years and have placed either 1st or 2nd each year!

Below is a summary of the 2026 Shady Oak Beach operations:

Revenues:

	2024	2025	2026
Season Passes	$55,078	$80,341	$76,835
Daily Passes/Rentals	$99,319	$111,343	$100,475
Concessions	$68,440	$64,237	$62,264
Grants/Misc.	-	$9,616	-
Total Operating Revenues	**$222,837**	**$265,537**	**$239,574**

Expenses:

	2024	2025	2026
Personnel	$289,141	$269,237	$230,071
Supplies	$15,698	$12,146	$9,760
Other Services	$21,242	$29,006	$22,329
Food & Beverage	$51,809	$51,075	$48,732
Total Operating Expenses	**$377,890**	**$361,464**	**$310,892**

Park Board
Agenda Item 8.A
Meeting of October 7, 2026

Title:	Information Items

Strategic Plan Goal:	N/A
Action Requested:	Informational
Form of Action:	Other

Summary Statement
The following are information items to be shared by staff.

Lone Lake Park Mountain Bike Trail Annual Update
The Lone Lake Park Multi-Use Mountain Bike Trail annual update is attached.

Habitat Restoration Grants
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recently distributed a request for proposals for the Conservation Partners Legacy grant program focused entirely on habitat restoration and invasive species removal on public lands. The MN DNR has roughly $11 million dollars to distribute within the seven county metro area, Rochester, and Duluth.

City natural resources staff submitted multiple applications for approximately $1.2 million for over 100 acres of large scale restoration in Minnetonka community parks: Cullen Nature Preserve, Big Willow Park, Civic Center Park, and Purgatory Park. City staff also partnered with Hennepin County and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District on two of the grants, along with the Friends of the Cullen Nature Preserve.

Youth Sports Activity Grants
Staff completed applications for two grants with the Hennepin County Youth Sports Grant program. Working with the Big Willow Baseball Association, staff applied for $75,000 in funding to install ballfield lighting on the southeast field at Big Willow Park. This field is currently the only field without lighting. Adding the lighting would allow for more games during the spring and fall seasons at this highly utilized field complex. The baseball association would provide the additional funding needed for installation and there would be no funding needed from the city.

Staff also applied for $300,000 in funding for the Glen Lake Skatepark. If successful, the grant funding would be applied directly to the construction of the skatepark and its associated elements while existing $1,350,000 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) funding would be used for surrounding Glen Lake Park amenities and accessibility improvements. This recent grant funding would support the previously successful $400,000 grant with the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for skate park improvements.

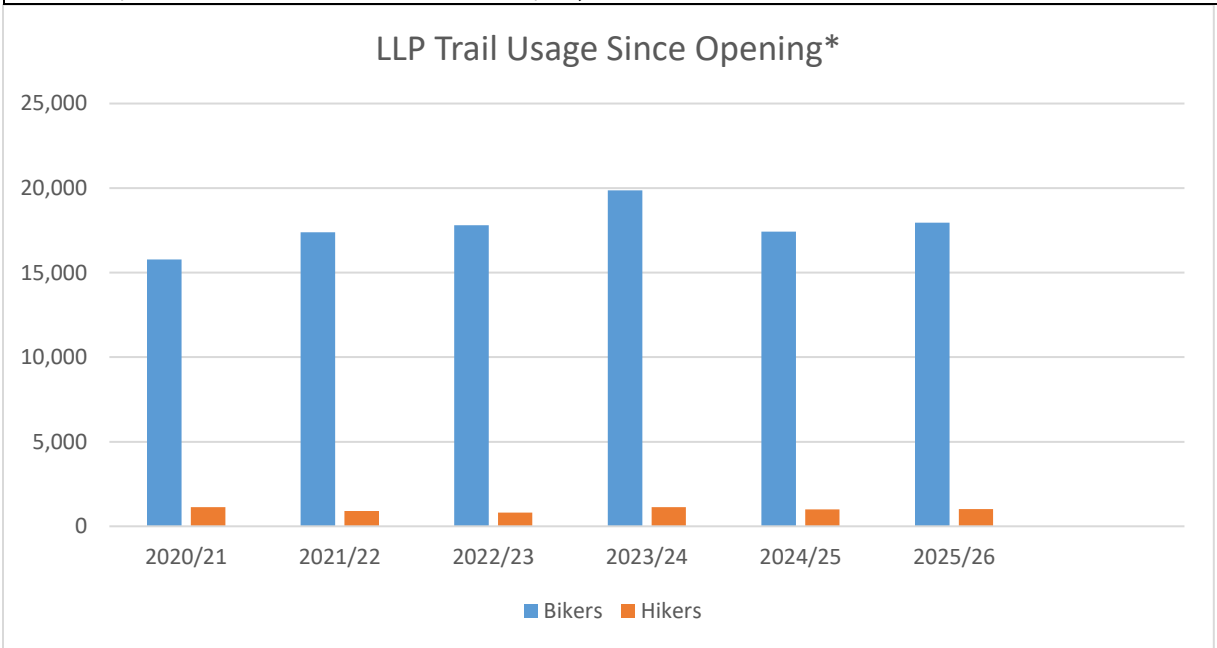
Park Board Ordinance Update
The City Council recently adopted an updated Park Board ordinance describing the nature and make up of the Park Board commission. The revised ordinance is attached.

Recommended Action
None.

ATTACHMENT(S):
Lone Lake Park Multi-Use Mountain Bike Trail Annual Update
2026 Park Board Ordinance Update

LONE LAKE PARK MULTI-USE MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL
ANNUAL UPDATE
2025-2026
(Aug. 2025-July 2026)

Trail Use
Number of days trail was open and closed: • Open: 287 (79%) • Closed: 78
Number of team practices scheduled: • 20 team practices scheduled during the fall 2025. Teams include: Armstrong, Bloomington, Lakeville, Chaska/Chanhassen, Edina, Orono, Rockford, Mound/Westonka & Shakopee. 815 total riders. • Teams consist of 30-40 riders per practice. • Team riding groups must be 8 or less with a maximum of 40 coaches and student-athletes at a time. There is no time trial or race activities, this includes simulated starts, passing drills, etc.
Estimated annual use: • Bikers: 17,948 • Hikers/Runners: 1,023 • Snowshoers: n/a
Advocacy & Engagement
Number of MORC: • Volunteers: 118 volunteers (37 unique volunteers) • Volunteer events: 16 • Volunteer hours for trail maintenance/management: 313 • Volunteer hours for park restoration: 72 • Total volunteer hours: 385
Total cost benefit of volunteers: • Current estimated national value of each volunteer hour is $36.14 • $36.14 x 385 volunteer hours = $13,914 value



***Since opening in November 2020 - 6 years ago - it is estimated that LLP has had over 14,000 unique mountain bike visitors and over 100,000 total mountain bike visits.**

Ordinance No. 2026-06

An Ordinance amending sections 125.005, 125.010, 125.015, 125.020, 125.025, and 125.030 of the Minnetonka City Code.

The City of Minnetonka Ordains:

Section 1 Section 125.005 of the Minnetonka City Code, relating to park board, is amended to read as follows:

125.005. Park Board.

The park board for the City of Minnetonka is established as an advisory board to the city council. The park board shall be comprised of seven voting members, including one youth or young adult member. The term “board” in this section 125 refers to the park board.

Section 2 Section 125.010 of the Minnetonka City Code, relating to eligibility, is amended to read as follows:

125.010. Eligibility, Appointment and Term.

1. Eligibility. All members must be residents of the city of Minnetonka.

2. Appointment. Members of the board are appointed by the mayor with the approval of the city council. One of the members must be a youth or young adult member (ages 16-24). Appointments will represent the city of Minnetonka at large, considering geographic representation from all areas of the city with particular attention to the ward boundaries of the city.

3. Term. The youth or young adult member will be appointed to a one-year term that begins on July 1 and ends on June 30. All other members will be appointed to two-year terms that begin on February 1 and end on January 31. Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term only.

4. Reappointment. Members may request consideration for reappointment near the end of their term; provided that any member who has already served eight consecutive years is not eligible for reappointment. Reappointment is not automatic and is subject to review by the mayor and approval by the city council.

5. Removal. The mayor, with the approval of the council, may remove any member for any reason.

Section 3 Section 125.015 of the Minnetonka City Code is amended to read as follows:

125.015. Duties and Responsibilities.

1. The park board will advise the city council on matters relating to parks. This shall include short- and long-range planning; the acquisition, development and use of park lands and facilities; and policies relating to park lands and facilities.

2. The park board may, from time to time, hear from community members on matters relating to parks.

3. The park board will submit an annual written report to the city council summarizing the previous year's accomplishments and outlining its goals and planned activities for the upcoming year

Section 4 Section 125.020 of the Minnetonka City Code is amended to read as follows:

125.020. Meetings, Officers, Committees and Rules of Procedure.

1. The park board shall meet as necessary to accomplish its duties.

2. Annually, the members of the park board must elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson.

3. The park board may adopt bylaws or rules for the conduct of its business. The bylaws may provide for establishment of standing or ad hoc committees of the commission.

4. All meetings of the board and committees must be conducted in compliance with the Minnesota open meeting law.

Section 5 Section 125.025 of the Minnetonka City Code is amended to read as follows:

125.025. Compensation.

Members serve without compensation but may obtain reimbursement of expenses in accordance with city policy.

Section 6 Section 125.030 of the Minnetonka City Code is amended to read as follows:

125.030. Staff Liaison.

The city manager shall designate a city staff member to serve as the staff liaison to the board. The staff liaison shall prepare reports, provide recommendations and other information for the board, attend all meetings of the board, and participate in its discussions. The staff liaison shall not vote on any matter before the board.

Section 7 This ordinance is effective [30 days after publication].

Adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, on Sept. 14, 2026.

_____

Rebecca Schack, Mayor

Attest:

Becky Koosman, City Clerk

Action on this ordinance:

Date of introduction: Aug. 31, 2026
Date of adoption: Sept. 14, 2026
Motion for adoption: Maxwell
Seconded by: Foster-Bolton
Voted in favor of: Calvert, Ramaley, Coakley, Foster-Bolton, Maxwell, Wilburn, Schack
Voted against:
Abstained:
Absent:
Ordinance adopted.

Date of Publication:

Certification:

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of an ordinance adopted by the city council of the City of Minnetonka, Minnesota, at a meeting held on Sept. 14, 2026.

_____

Becky Koosman, City Clerk

Park Board
Agenda Item 8.B
Meeting of October 7, 2026

Title: Upcoming Meeting Schedule

Strategic Plan Goal: N/A
Action Requested: Informational
Form of Action: Other

Summary Statement
Upcoming Park Board meetings and other city meetings/activities listed below.

Upcoming meeting schedule:

Day	Date	Business Items (Subject to Change)	Special Notes
Wed.	11/4/26	• Big Willow Master Plan • Park Habitat Restoration and Maintenance Plans: Lone Lake Park, Tower Hill Park • Park Board Strategic Plan • Park Board 2027 Work Plan	
Wed.	12/02/26	• 2026 Farmers Market Review • Park Board Strategic Plan • Park Board 2027 Work Plan	

Other meetings and activities to note:

Day	Date	Description	Special Notes
Fri.	10/30	Burwell Spooktacular	Minnetonka Mills Park, 5-7:30 p.m.
Tues.	12/9	Winter-Spring Recreation program registration begins	8 a.m.
Daily	Dec. 19–Jan. 3	Yeti Hunt	Big Willow Park
Su.	2/7	Kids' Fest	The Marsh, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Recommended Action
None