

PRESENT: Chairman Sam Battle, John Hammond, Stacey Francis, Maggie Lieux, Cieria Ramon, Parks Director Reardon, and Secretary Tami Martinak

ABSENT: n/a

GUESTS:

- Stephen Gettis – no show and not dates/times were submitted again.
- Vaughn Sprinkle, Elyria Mini Pioneers.

CALL TO ORDER:

SPEAKER(s):

- Vaughn Sprinkle, Elyria Mini Pioneers. Passed out info on their organization and programs. Asking for donation of gym time 3/16 thru 6/01/2026, prefer Mondays from 5:30-8:00pm.
 - John Hammond made motion to allow the Elyria Mini Pioneers to have access to a facility as determined by the Parks Director, prefer South Gym, dates to be determined by the Parks Director as to availability from 3/16-6/08, if possible. Maggie Lieux 2nd.

MOTION CARRIED

MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:

-

APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:

- Agenda
- Minutes from December 11, 2025
- December 2025 Financials
- Maggie Lieux made motion to approve the Consented Items, Stacey Francis 2nd

MOTION CARRIED

- No Minutes from January 8, 2026 – No Quorum
- January 2026 Financials
- Maggie Lieux made motion to approve the Consented Items, Stacey Francis 2nd

MOTION CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Midview East Student Council asking for 2 hours of Ice Time to be donated again for their yearly fundraiser for their student led group. It has been very successful in the past. Would like to again partner with Elyria Parks & Recreation for their Family Event on March 4, 2026,
 - Maggie Lieux made a motion to donate 2 hours of Ice Time to the Midview East Student Council group for the Family Event fundraiser. Stacey Francis 2nd **MOTION CARRIED**

BUSINESS:

- Chairman Sam Battle turned over the meeting to Parks Director Carrie Reardon for the election of the 2026 Board Officers.
 - Sam Battle nominated for Park Board Chairman - ACCEPTED
 - John Hammond nominated for Park Board Vice Chairman - ACCEPTED
 - Tami Martinak nominated for Park Board Secretary – ACCEPTED
 - All were duly elected and Parks Director Reardon turned the meeting back over to Sam Battle Park Board Chairman.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- None

PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT

• January

- **Finwood:** Another great year at Finwood. We had 14,492 people do through the house or visit Santa. Many thanks to Kaleigh and the maintenance staff for all their hard work in getting Finwood ready for the busy holiday season
- **Donations:** We have sent out our 2026 donation letters in the utility bills. We received our first one back. We started this a few years back and seems to work well. I will also be getting with the Mayor about reaching out to some of the bigger businesses for donations for our Summer Concerts and July 4th (held on July 3rd) event.
 - Maggie Lieux made motion to accept the Director's report. Stacey Francis 2nd.

MOTION CARRIED

• February

- **West Park Playground:** We are hoping to start the install for the new playground in Mid-March. This will be weather dependent but it looks like we will demo the old playground the first week of March and they will start the install the week after. Staff is removing the old playground equipment.
- **Warming Shelter:** I want to give a huge shout out to the Parks and Recreation staff and their help in the warming shelters that we have had this year. They have gone above and beyond for those who have needed it. This is outside of their day to day responsibilities and job descriptions. They are true champions for this community.
- **Ensure They Shine Event:** We are partnering with Lorain County Children and Families First Council for a new event this year. They were able to secure a grant to offer this free community event and we are excited to be a part of it. It will be held on Saturday April 25th at North Rec. Further details to follow.
- Fireworks date has been changed to July 2nd.
 - Stacey Francis made motion to accept the Director's report. Maggie Lieux 2nd.

MOTION CARRIED

• Nicole Edwards, Recreation Supervisor

- January
 - TAP – The Active People: They are returning from Winter Break and looking forward to starting the I Love Walking Club. The program will run Jan. 5th – April 3rd. Encouraging participants to spend 30 minutes daily walking at each of the recreation centers. They will have the opportunity to win gift certificate and/or a t-shirt for completion.
 - Looking forward to a year of exciting adventures in Parks & Recreation.
- February
 - Easter Egg Hunt – Is scheduled for March 28th at North Park Ice Arena and starts promptly at 10am.
 - Safety Town – Applications are now available online for Volunteers. Registration will begin on March 30th.
 - Summer Concerts – Thursday concerts are all scheduled.

• Brandon Lawler, Recreation Supervisor

- January
 - We are excited about the new opportunities for our community residents through our programs! Beginning this week, we will offer the 10 – 12-year-old youth basketball

league with games being held at East Recreation Center on Saturday mornings. Immediately following the games, we are hosting a Youth Basketball Skills Clinic for ages 13 - 16.

- At South Recreation Center we are offering basketball leagues for three age groups, 3-4; 5-6 and 7-9! We are also offering Soccer and Basketball skills clinics beginning soon.
- Other programs beginning next week are the Youth Volleyball Clinics grades 3rd - 5th and 6th - 8th. The volleyball clinic will be held at West Recreation Center along with our Adult Volleyball Open Gym on Saturdays. These clinics are popular because of the individual attention from our instructors and the opportunity to develop basic and advanced fundamentals.
- Next, adult volleyball is back and will begin this Tuesday (1/13/2026).
- In addition to these programs, we will continue offering Open Pickleball at East Rec through the Spring.
- Lastly, Open Rec (our after-school program) remains a safe, fun and organized environment for our community's youth. We are finalizing details which will add more structure within the program to give a more well-rounded experience. As always, it is a privilege to serve the community.

○ February

- The recreation centers on Saturday mornings are packed with youth sports. Our youth basketball leagues and clinics are bringing excitement to our city at East and South Recreation Centers. Two leagues (ages 5-6 and 7-9) are being held at South Rec Center and one league (ages 10 – 12) is at East Rec Center. Also, we currently offering a 13 – 16-year-old clinic at East Rec immediately following games.
- In addition to the aforementioned programs, we have soccer clinics and basketball clinics at South Rec on Monday evenings and a 3-4-year-old youth basketball program at South Rec on Tuesdays.
- Over at West Recreation Center, we are offering a Youth Volleyball Clinic that is generating excitement for the upcoming Youth Volleyball League which begins this weekend. We have over 190 participants registered to play this Winter in the Youth Volleyball League! Continuing with volleyball, our Adult Volleyball League is operating very well and is always appreciated by the participants. We offer open volleyball on Friday evenings for our communities' youth and an open volleyball for the adults on Saturday evenings.
- Monday and Wednesday evenings, we offer Open Pickleball! Lastly, our Open Rec Program is running well. Kids look forward to safe, organized environment to enjoy after school engagement and activities.
- As we transition into spring and summer programs, we are excited to continue to offer excellent experiences to our community residents. As always, this is an exciting time in Parks and Recs!

● **Kaleigh Hernandez**, Recreation Supervisor

○ January

- Hope everyone had a great holiday season. I was able to take some time off and spend with family and it was much needed and very nice!
- Finwood went great this season. A lot of great compliments about inside and outside the house. The staff and Santa's were great. We had many volunteers including the Apple Festival Queen, community members, Achieve Credit Union, and the Elyria High Madrigals come to help spread the holiday cheer. I really enjoyed working on the house and running it this season.

- The ice rink is going well. Construction of the new locker room and storage area is completed. We are going to be adding Livebarn to the rink so people can stream games which is something we have been wanting to add for a while now, so it's great it is finally happening. Over the holiday break we had many open skates which were well attended.
- It is hard to believe but we are already busy planning for softball and the pool again. Can't wait for that warm weather!
- February
 - We just returned from the OPRA Conference at Kalahari and it's always a good time and a great way to learn new things, get new ideas, and become inspired again. Thankful to be able to attend.
 - I am wrapping up the ice rink season and we will close in March which always makes me sad, but it'll be time for pool season before we know it.
 - Busy planning summer events at the pool including donation drives, pool parties, swim team, lessons, and a new parent and tot swim time that will be made available on Fridays at east pool in the morning. I would love to provide a time for parents and small children to have safe and calm space in the pool. I also need to renew two of my licenses this season for lifeguarding and lifeguard instructor.
 - Finally, I am holding a few rounds of CPR classes for our employees. Some who have never had the certification before and some who need it renewed. I find joy in being able to help train people to become ready in any situation to help our participants.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- none

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 12, 2026 at Finwood Estate @ 4:30pm.
(subject to change).

ADJOURNMENT:


Parks Board Chairman


Parks Director


Secretary