

**PRESENT:** Chairman Sam Battle, John Hammond, Maggie Lieux, March Craig, Parks Director Carrie Reardon, and Secretary Tami Martinak

**ABSENT:** Stacey Francis & Cieria Ramon

**GUESTS:**

- Brad Armstrong

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**SPEAKER(s):**

- Brad Armstrong. 11<sup>th</sup> year for Easter Egg Hunt, approximately 200 participants. Asking for half of the rental fee to be waived for the use of South Recreation Center on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The Easter Hunt will be held from 12:30-2:30pm. Will need the center from approximately 10am-4pm, for set-up/clean up.
  - John Hammond made motion to allow Brad Armstrong to conduct his annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:30-2:30pm and for half of the fees to be waived for the entire rental to be determined by the Parks Director. Maggie Lieux 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MAYOR/SAFETY SERVICE OFFICE UPDATE:**

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**APPROVAL OF CONSENTED ITEMS:**

- Agenda
- Minutes from February 12, 2026
- February 2026 Financials
- Budget to Full Council on Monday, budget requests appear to be okay at this time
- Maggie Lieux made motion to approve the Consented Items, John Hammond 2<sup>nd</sup>

**MOTION CARRIED**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- None

**BUSINESS:**

- None

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

- None

**PARKS DIRECTOR REPORT**

- Summer Concert Series - Saturdays  
We have three Saturday Summer Concerts set for this year. June 13<sup>th</sup>, July 18<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm. We will have live music in the Square. We have one returning act, Good Vibes Better People from last Summer and two new ones. TARP, and 80's themed rock cover band and LaFlavour, a cover band who specializes in music from the 60's-2000's. We look forward to welcoming these bands to the Square.

- Maintenance Position  
We had one of our maintenance employees resign, so we have an opening that we are hoping to fill in the next few weeks. Hoping to replace with a Leadman position. Working on the job description. This would give a better chance for the maintenance staff to move up and stay within the department.
- Pocket Park  
Bids will be opened on March 11<sup>th</sup> and hope to award a contract shortly after that. The current bid calls for a completion date of August 2026. Update: No bids were received. Only one company bought a package, but did not bid. Cathy to contact them to find out way they did not bid.
- Getting ready for Spring & Summer
- West Park Playground  
Working on the new playground
- Student Led Protest scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup>. Originally wanted to come from EHS down Middle Ave. to Court Street at the Courthouse steps. Changed to West Ave. to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, per EPD safety issues, looking at approximately 500 people. For this type of gathering, we would need insurance for use the Square. Wanting to also have food trucks at the Square. Park Board would prefer no Food Trucks. Park Board needs to approve the use of Food Trucks for Square events.
- **Nicole Edwards, Recreation Supervisor**
  - Easter Egg Hunt – Murray Ridge is currently working to put together the plastic eggs for the hunt. Candy bags and Easter Baskets will soon be ready for the Hunt on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
  - Safety Town – Applications are now available online and in person to pick up for volunteers. Registration for Safety Town participants will begin March 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - TAP – The Active People – Preparing information to offer different trip options for Seniors as we approach Spring/Summer Season.
- **Brandon Lawler, Recreation Supervisor**
  - This transitional period between winter and spring encourages excitement to bloom because of the possibilities of positively impacting community residents. While winter programs are currently being offered (e.g., winter youth volleyball leagues and winter adult volleyball leagues), anticipation is growing for outdoor activities and programs!
  - Now that Spring/Summer program registration has begun, we are in the process of marketing these programs to get the word out. Some of the upcoming programs are Spring Youth Soccer Leagues, Spring Adult Volleyball Leagues, Spring T-Ball, Spring Open Pickleball and Volleyball, Spring Tennis Lessons and Spring Youth Basketball. Assisting with our growing Soccer Leagues for the fourth consecutive year will be the LCCC Women's and Men's Soccer Players, they will officiate leagues and instruct clinics and camps. In addition to the aforementioned programs.
  - "The Mobile Rec" will be returning as well! The Mobile Rec will give our staff an opportunity to connect with the community through programs and activities brought to a nearby park, trail, field or court. Our staff will lead experiences, games and many other recreation activities.
  - Another impactful program is our Open Rec Program held at East Rec. Open Rec is continuing to go smooth, offering school aged children an opportunity to participate in meaningful programs after school.
  - We are thankful to serve our residents and are excited to have a positive impact on our community through programming! As always, this is an exciting time in the Elyria Parks and Recs!

- **Kaleigh Hernandez, Recreation Supervisor**
  - The ice rink is in its final weeks and we are wrapping it up and beginning planning for summer. We have launched Livebarn at the rink and once all the kinks are worked out it will be a good tool for people to use to watch the games.
  - We are hopeful to have an adult kickball league either this spring or summer so we are working on the planning for that. We are also looking in to bringing an adult self-defense class to the department.
  - Softball fields at west and south are being booked every day for practices and games. We will be using almost all of the fields daily, so in the future it would be good to look over and discuss fees for residents and non-residents when it comes to using the fields. We put a lot of scheduling planning, maintenance and field work, and product into these fields and we continuously get complimented on how great the fields look from multiple communities, so I believe it would benefit us to consider adjusting rental fees in the next year.
  - Looking into pool season I am actively hiring for positions and I have a good amount of staff returning to the pools this season. We are adding on a new parent and tot swim time where only parents and their kids five years and younger will be at the pool swimming during this time. We are also working with the police department and the Safety Service Director to implement a new parks and rec badge that everyone entering the pool would be required to present. The hope with this is to assist with the number of incidents we have on a daily basis. We are hoping to have names, ages, addresses, and emergency contacts linked to these badges which will also assist staff when and if they need to contact a guardian for any accidents or emergencies. We are hopeful this will help to promote a more family friendly and safe environment.
  - Looking forward to a busy and fun summer!

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**


- none

Next meeting will be Thursday, April 9, 2026 at South Recreation Center @ 4:30pm.  
(subject to change).

**ADJOURNMENT:**

  
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Parks Board Chairman

  
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Parks Director

  
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Secretary