



**OAK RIDGE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MAY 15, 2025 - 6:30 P.M.  
(Held in person & electronically via the Zoom platform)**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present**

John Browning, Co-Chair  
Adrian Eckenrod, Co-Chair  
Phyllis Anders  
Kyle Anders  
John Garrett, Alternate (Sitting)  
Chelsea Young, Alternate (\*arrived 6:32pm, Sitting)  
  
Reese Bell, Teen Advisor

**Staff Present**

Ashley Royal, Deputy Town Clerk  
Brock Dunigan, Parks Superintendent

**Members Absent**

Mike Kimel  
Caroline Ruch  
Ty Lindsay, Alternate

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Co-Chair John Browning called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Co-Chair Adrian Eckenrod made a motion to approve the agenda, and Kyle Anders seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).*

**3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

*Co-Chair John Browning made a motion to approve the minutes from April 17, 2025, special called meeting, and Co-Chair Adrian Eckenrod seconded. The motion passed unanimously (5-0).*

**4. STAFF REPORT**

- Dunigan presented the financial report and noted that 87 percent of the fiscal year had occurred with 72 percent of operating expenses spent.
- Dunigan reported that the memorial garden project was complete.
- Dunigan reported that the repair of the damage to walkways created by River Birch trees was complete.
- Dunigan reported that repairs were underway to the sidewalks in front of Town Hall extending to the fire department and other areas around the park. He anticipated completion of the repairs by the following day.
- Dunigan stated that the springtime mulching at the Park was complete.
- Dunigan reported that the fields at Heritage Farm Park opened on May 5 but that the fields would need one growing season to fully mature.
- Dunigan stated that water retention issues at the area known as the frog pond and the rear ends of the multipurpose fields at Heritage Farm Park had been regraded

and were vastly improved. He noted that light grading was pending on the inside of the fence line of the fields and that three trees would be replaced before construction could be considered completed at Heritage Farm Park.

- Dunigan reported that Piedmont Site Works would be repairing the drainage issues at Hwy 150 by the swim club and that a French drain would be installed in anticipation of future reconstruction of the existing clay pipes.
- Dunigan noted that Phase II construction at the Veterans Honor Green would begin upon full execution of the contract. He added that delivery of engraved brick pavers was expected, and that the installation of the pavers would be handled by park staff.

Eckenrod asked if Dunigan would restrict usage of the fields at Heritage Farm Park and Dunigan replied that he would not because he felt that the fields were in suitable condition for use.

Brown asked if Dunigan expected heavy use of the fields and Dunigan noted that Revolution Academy had expressed an interest in making the fields their home-based fields for their soccer program. In addition, he received inquiries from lacrosse and soccer programs for use of the fields for camps and tournaments in the summer.

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### **Consideration/Approval of Oak Ridge Lions Club Tranquility Garden**

Lions Club member Danny Yanusz, 7807 Grey Fox Road, presented a proposal with drawings for the construction of a Tranquility Garden to commemorate deceased members of the Club. The proposal is hereby incorporated by reference and made a part of the minutes. He described the location of the garden as being behind the multipurpose fields at Heritage Farm Park. He explained that the first phase of the garden's construction would involve the development of its infrastructure which included a 50- to 60-foot cement pathway terminating at a 15- to 20-foot circular patio. He pointed out that Club funds were available to finance the first phase along with memorial trees for the deceased honorees. He added that plantings around the garden would be sourced out of his own personal garden. Yanusz noted that the second phase of the garden's construction would involve larger plantings to create an arboretum-like atmosphere and hardscaping to add natural stone seating areas. He commented that the Club's annual golf tournament in September would help to raise funds for this second phase of construction. Yanusz added that the master plan design would also include features such as wind chimes hung in trees to add a zen-like experience. He stressed that the garden would be low maintenance and open to expansion and community involvement.

Questions were posed regarding the specific location of the garden, timing for construction, and varieties of plantings. Yanusz stressed that the project could begin as soon as approval was obtained and that the garden would be a gift to the community from the Lions Club as an acknowledgement of their services.

*Kyle Anders made a motion to approve the Oak Ridge Lions Club Tranquility Garden, and Co-Chair Adrian Eckenrod seconded. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).*

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Update on Farmhouse Community Center Construction Project/Grand Opening**

Deputy Town Clerk Ashley Royal reported that the issuance of the Certificate of Occupancy was pending the installation of the handicap rails. She added that rentals were being scheduled to assist with testing various aspects of the Farmhouse’s rental process and that the grand opening was scheduled tentatively for June 8.

**B. Park Entrance Master Plan**

Dunigan reported that landscaping around the Farmhouse was completed and that Park staff would begin putting plants in against the house. He pointed out that the final walkthrough with WC Construction had occurred and curb stops had been installed in the parking lot. He indicated that the project was close to completion.

Questions were posed regarding the magnolia trees near the sidewalks and grading and elevation issues. Dunigan indicated that topsoil had been added, and grading issues were being addressed around the areas of the air-conditioning unit and HVAC. He cited some difficulty in addressing these issues owing to the location of the septic field and tank.

**C. Update on Music in the Park Series**

Royal reported that the event was well attended with approximately 1,000 people. She noted no major issues at the event. Discussion was held regarding issues with dogs being a distraction at the event. No action was taken.

**D. Update on 2025-2026 Music on the Lawn at the Farmhouse Community Center**

Royal indicated that the budget for Music on the Lawn had been included in the FY2025-26 Town budget which was pending approval. She pointed out that four events had been tentatively scheduled in August and September of 2025 and two others in 2026.

**7. OTHER DISCUSSIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS**

Next regular meeting:	June 19, 2025
Memorial Day event: (at Town Hall, 10:00 a.m.)	May 26, 2025
Movie in the Park:	May 30, 2025
Filipino Summer Festival:	June 7, 2025
Flag Day/250 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of the US Army Celebration: (at amphitheater, 10:00 a.m.)	June 14, 2025
Music in the Park, featuring Special Occasion Band: (Sign-ups will go up soon)	June 14, 2025
Farmhouse tentative Grand Opening	June 8, 2025, rain date June 29, 2025

**8. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chelsea Young stated that the Canine Capers event in April was successful, noting that five dog rescues participated and new to the event was an Adopt Me parade which was well received.

Ann Schneider commented that she would be a guest speaker at the Flag Day event and that it was expected to be a nice ceremony.

Kyle Anders remarked on the dedicated efforts of the park staff and on the good conditions of the park and fields.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

*Co-Chair Adrian Eckenrod made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m., and John Garrett seconded. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).*

Respectfully submitted:

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Ashley Royal, CMC  
Deputy Town Clerk

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John Browning  
Co-Chair