



Parks and Recreation Commission

1408 Lake Street South
Forest Lake, MN 55025
www.ci.forest-lake.mn.us

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Wednesday, January 21, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Don Theisen	Chair	Present	
Karen Morehead	Vice-Chair	Present	
Aaron Eckert	Commissioner	Present	
Tim Garry	Commissioner	Absent	
Sue Herdina	Commissioner	Present	
Melissa Lundmark	Commissioner	Present	
Sandra Madsen	Commissioner	Absent	

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approve the Agenda

Motion: Commissioner Morehead made a Motion to Approve the Agenda as presented. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eckert. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Open Forum – Citizen Petitions, Requests, and Concerns

The Open Forum is available for residents to express personal opinions on any item of business. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.

Nannette Lanasa, 1276 4th Street, Forest Lake, stated that a dog park was well-needed in Forest Lake, and any size of a dog park would be better than nothing, since people are using City parks and allowing their dogs to run off-leash.

6. Approve Meeting Minutes from December 17, 2025, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Motion: Commissioner Lundmark made a Motion to Approve the December 17, 2026, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Commissioner Herdina. Motion carried 5-0.

7. Veterans Memorial Grant Agreement – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young commented that the staff was awarded \$210,000 in a Minnesota Historical Society Grant. These funds would be used for the Center Sculpture.

Motion: Commissioner Morehead made a Motion to Recommend the City Council approval of the proposed Minnesota Historical Society Grant Agreement.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Eckert. Motion carried 5-0.

8. Veterans Memorial Sculpture Agreement – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young reviewed the process that the Veterans Memorial Committee completed to select an artist to complete the Center Sculpture. The Veterans Memorial Committee selected an artist to complete the project, which would require approval of a contract.

Motion: Commissioner Morehead made a Motion to Recommend the City Council approval of the proposed agreement.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Herdina. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Castlewood 2026 Fees – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young reviewed the fee adjustments submitted by Foursome Golf Management Group LLC. The daily green fees and season pass pricing increased.

Motion: Commissioner Lundmark made a Motion to Recommend approval of the 2026 Castlewood Fees proposed by Foursome

Motion seconded by Commissioner Herdina. Motion carried 5-0.

10. Dog Park – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young reviewed the current dog park project proposed in the 2027 Capital Improvement Plan for \$100,000.

Commissioner Morehead said that she wanted to make sure they could complete the project, but a three plus acre park is not necessary sharing that she has changed her stance and that the dog park does not need to be as large as she initially thought. She reviewed the airport rule about congregating in a location, so she asked for recommendations on the location.

Commissioner Herdina asked if they could complete the park at the new Public Works location.

Public Works Director Adams stated that Beltz Park was 2.8 acres as a reference.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young said that they could consider what locations are available in the City. They wanted to do research to see if there were larger spaces, but also wanted to be able to complete the project.

Commissioner Eckert asked about moving forward with the previous space and if they could complete a second park in the future for different sizes of dogs.

Commissioner Lundmark said one drawback of the environmental center was walking accessibility. Public Works Director Adams reviewed the planned extended pedestrian facilities.

Chair Theisen asked about the costs for the park and encouraged additional research before moving forward with the park, especially about the rules, policies, and costs of a park.

Commissioner Eckert suggested utilizing cameras to enforce policies at the dog park.

Commissioner Morehead asked about considering different spaces. Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young answered that the staff could do research and bring the information back if the Parks and Recreation Commissioners were in favor of including the dog park in the 2027 Capital Improvement Plan.

Public Works Director Adams said that they would take the plan and consider the options throughout the year.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young noted that the airport space could not have a fence, so it would not be an optional location for a dog park.

11. Bayview Park – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young requested guidance for the layout of Bayview Park, including reconstructing an existing basketball court or additional green space.

Commissioner Lundmark asked about the basketball hoop options. Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young said that the lower the hoops, the older kids might break rims. They can look for options for adjustable hoops and get feedback from vendors.

Chair Theisen said that the park seemed geared towards smaller children.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young discussed the built-in shade shelter and the restroom options. He stated that the playground would be in a similar location and not be near the property line.

Public Works Director Adams asked if they wanted to do the basketball court or the green space, and any feedback about the survey. Chair Theisen confirmed that they wanted a basketball court for smaller children.

12. Volleyball Courts at Beltz – Dave Adams

Public Works Director Adams summarized the design for a volleyball court that could also be used as the seasonal ice rink. The preliminary cost estimate was \$14,163.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young stated that no traveling leagues would use the ball field for games.

Commissioner Morehead noted that she was not in favor of the layout but was in favor of bringing it back. Public Works Director Adams clarified that it needed a new location because of the pedestrian ramp.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young discussed the benefits of using the volleyball court as an ice rink, citing the level ground and access to lighting.

Public Works Director Adams said they were proposing this location for the volleyball court to preserve as much green space as possible.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young discussed that a sand volleyball court used for leagues is often partnered with a restaurant. He did not think this location would be appropriate because of the parking. He stated that the best practice would be to use the volleyball court as a rink.

Commissioner Lundmark said that this volleyball court would be used for pickup games.

Motion: Commissioner Lundmark made a Motion to Recommend that the City Council approves installation of the new Volleyball Courts at Beltz Park using Park Dedication Funding. Motion seconded by Commissioner Eckert. Motion carried 4-1 (Morehead voted against).

13. Hometown Holiday Drones – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young asked if they would like to consider incorporating a drone light show or fireworks display into the Hometown Holiday event to attract new attendees. It would cost \$17,000 for a twelve-minute drone show.

Commissioner Herdina expressed favor to incorporate a light show to draw attention to Hometown Holiday.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young discussed the difficulties of using fireworks if the lake was frozen.

Commissioner Eckert asked if there were alternative events they could incorporate for \$17,000. Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young answered that they did not have \$17,000 budgeted for 2026, but they could consider partnerships to fund the light show.

Chair Theisen asked if City staff had the time to devote to this research.

14. Hunting City Property and Parks – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young discussed the lack of clarity on hunting at parks and public lands. He stated that the only ordinance did not allow the discharge of firearms in specific zoning districts.

Chair Theisen stated he was not in favor of hunting in City parks.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young discussed that some of the areas with larger spaces people have tried to hunt, but since the Parks and Recreation Commission was not in favor, it would allow them to create a clear ordinance.

Commissioner Eckert said he was not in favor of using City parks, but could consider more rural City-owned land.

Public Works Director Adams discussed the time it would take to consider this ordinance if they were in favor of hunting in parks.

15. FLAAA Concessions Operations Agreement – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young reviewed the added language clarifying the concession closing process.

Motion: Commissioner Eckert made a Motion to Recommend approval of the City of Forest Lake Concessions Operations Agreement. Motion seconded by Commissioner Herdina. Motion carried 5-0.

16. Staff Updates

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young discussed the Lakes Area Expo and the opportunity to highlight Parks and Recreation offerings. He stated that the ice rinks have been great when the weather cooperates. The staff continues to work on the farmers' market opportunity. The staff was training on software for programming. They approved applicants for Arts in the Park and will start invoicing in February. The Masterplan Steering Committee had its second meeting, but they needed one additional resident to serve in the position. He stated Let's Go Fishing was starting to find volunteers. He said that the Veterans Memorial had over twenty pavers to order, and there was time to order more before the deadline.

17. Commissioner Updates

Commissioner Herdina asked about efforts to celebrate the Country's 250th Anniversary with the Legion. Public Works Director Adams answered that he assumed the Legion was going to tie into the 250th celebration.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young said that they provide a lot of man-hours for the event to support the American Legion.

Commissioner Lundmark mentioned wanting to discuss Spring Fling and wanting that event to happen again

18. Adjourn

Motion: Commissioner Herdina made a Motion to Adjourn the regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Morehead. Motion carried 5-0.