



Parks and Recreation Commission

Regular Meeting

~ Minutes ~

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

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

6:00 PM

City Center - Council Chambers

1. Call to Order

2. Oath of Office: Nikki Syring

Chair Theisen administered the oath of office for Nikki Syring.

3. Roll Call

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

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Approve the Agenda

Motion: Commissioner Garry made a Motion to Approve the Agenda as presented.
Motion seconded by Commissioner Eckert. Motion carried 7-0.

6. 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.*

Karen Dickey expressed a need for a dog park in Forest Lake.

7. Approve Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2026, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Commissioner Morehead stated she would like to correct the record and note that she was no longer stuck in a three-acre park. She wanted to find an appropriately sized park for Forest Lake.

Motion: Commissioner Morehead made a Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes from January 21, 2026, with the amendment to strike the comment about a three-acre park being a good start.
Motion seconded by Commissioner Herdina. Motion carried 6-0-1 (Syring abstained).

8. Staff Report – Hidden Creek South – Community Development Team

Assistant Community Development Director Gilmore reviewed the preliminary plat and revised the planned unit development for Hidden Creek South. He summarized the historical context and prior direction.

Commissioner Morehead clarified that no park would be constructed at this point. Assistant Community Development Director Gilmore said that it would be a parkland dedication.

Commissioner Lundmark asked about the trails. Public Works Director Adams stated that they wanted flat land so the Public Works Department could design the park and trail system in a logical manner.

Motion: Commissioner Herdina made a Motion to Recommend the City Council approve the parkland dedication proposal, allowing for a combination of land and cash in lieu of land dedication. Motion seconded by Commissioner Garry. Motion carried 7-0.

9. Staff Report – Parks Master Plan Update – Bolten & Menk

Bolten & Menk staff shared updated information for the current Parks Master Plan, including the survey progress, overview of the remaining schedule, park dedication purpose, study and draft implications, and the upcoming open house.

Chair Theisen asked if bodies of water were included in the acreage. Bolten & Menk staff confirmed this information.

Commissioner Syring asked if the developments in the works were included in the plans. Bolten & Menk staff answered that they were trying to include as much information as possible, pending the development conversations with City staff and City Council.

Commissioner Morehead asked about a park area planned by Schillings. Bolten & Menk staff responded that one recommendation is to look at an evaluation of areas that are natural spaces and how they can be utilized.

Bolten & Menk staff reviewed the anticipated events and schedule.

Chair Theisen asked if they had high-level cost estimates of what it would take to develop. Bolten & Menk staff confirmed this information.

Chair Theisen asked about how many staff the City should have for park sizes. Bolten & Menk staff answered that they would review this information, and they were deficient in this area in 2022.

10. Staff Report – Outdoor Athletic Facilities Study – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young discussed the regular conversations focused on facility planning, maintenance planning, and long-term capital planning with the City and the Forest Lake Area School District to most efficiently serve the community.

Commissioner Morehead explained the need to continue to work with the Forest Lake Area Athletic Association.

Commissioner Syring asked how closely the cities worked together and if it was possible to collaborate on plans for the outdoor athletic facilities study. Public Works Director Adams answered that they hoped the study would analyze the options for athletic facilities.

Motion: Commissioner Morehead made a Motion to Recommend the City Council approve the Ballard King study in the amount of \$20,015.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Eckert. Motion carried 7-0.

11. Staff Report – 2026 Bayview Park Reconstruction Project – Dave Adams

Public Works Director Adams reviewed the 2026 Bayview Park Reconstruction Project. He provided an overview of the total budgeted project amount between \$378,00 to \$428,000.

Chair Theisen asked about the budget. Public Works Director Adams summarized the work that the City would complete to be efficient and drive down the cost.

Motion: Commissioner Morehead made a Motion to Recommend the City staff solicit quotes for the 2026 Bayview Reconstruction Project.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Lundmark. Motion carried 7-0.

12. Staff Report – Farmers Market Update – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young reviewed the guiding documents for future markets and the documents for those interested in being a vendor at the market.

Commissioner Morehead asked about the Rotary helping to set up for the event. Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young said he was working with the County to secure an on-site person with potential SNAP or EBT access. He stated he did not have a committed answer from the rotary. Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young stated it was on the vendors to clean up, and they would have a plan to make sure it was completed. He discussed the proposed change of dates.

13. Discussion – Outdoor Ice Rink Reports – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young discussed the skating rink usage at Beltz Park and Tower Park over the last two years.

A representative from Forest Lake Hockey Association discussed the growth and the need for rink usage. He thanked Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young for the partnership.

Commissioner Syring discussed the benefits for children to have access to the rinks.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young discussed the parking at Beltz Park.

Commissioner Herdina asked about an old ice rink. Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young answered that it was now the shop for the maintenance trucks for the school district. Commissioner Eckert discussed parking concerns when there was snow.

14. Discussion – Spring Fling – Kyle Young

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young requested feedback about the Spring Fling event.

Commissioner Lundmark discussed the possibility of collaborating with the Chamber for the Spring Fling event.

Commissioner Lundmark expressed support for City-recognized events.

Commissioner Syring stated that the Spring Fling could be hosted at the Fire Hall. The City could partner with community stakeholders to host the event, while providing a location for the partners to utilize.

Chair Theisen said that there were new ideas generated at each meeting, and he asked about the goal for the Parks and Recreation Department. He also suggested providing a calendar of the events that take place.

15. Staff Updates

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young discussed the previous discussions of the dog park. He said they were considering average-sized dog parks between two and three acres. He reviewed the desired characteristics for dog parks.

Karen Dickey stated that the nice dog parks had a bathroom and a faucet to fill up water bottles or dog bowls throughout the park. She discussed providing volunteers at the park who could address problems at dog parks. She said that dog parks without shade are difficult to use in the summertime.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Young reviewed the partnership with the County for community gardens and noted that they received a \$5,000 grant from the County for the gardens. He reminded everyone about the open house on February 23rd.

16. Parks and Recreation Commissioner Updates

None.

17. Adjourn

Motion: Commissioner Syring made a Motion to Adjourn the regularly scheduled Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at 7:33 p.m.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Lundmark. Motion carried 7-0.