

**CLEARWATER PARK COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 9, 2026**

1. Call to Order: 5:30 p.m. at City Hall

- Chair Petty called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Members present included Petty, Schindele, and Plaggerman. Member Senn was absent. Also present was City Administrator Smythe.

2. Oaths of Office – Schindele, Plaggerman

- Oaths of office were conducted for Members Schindele and Plaggerman.

3. Selection of Officers – Chair, Vice Chair

- **MOTION** by Petty to approve Schindele as Vice Chair, seconded by Plaggerman, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**
- **MOTION** by Plaggerman to approve Petty as Chair, seconded by Schindele, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

4. Approval of Agenda

- **MOTION** by Schindele to approve agenda as presented, seconded by Plaggerman, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

5. Approval of Minutes from October 13, 2025 Meeting

- **MOTION** by Schindele to approve minutes from October 13, 2025 meeting as presented, seconded by Petty, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

6. Public Forum

- None.

7. Old Business

a. Local Option Sales Tax Project List

- Administrator Smythe reminded Members of the need for a project list to begin the process of extending the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST). We can request funding for up to 5 projects.
- Members discussed options and feasibility based on pricing and long-term maintenance costs. Some items raised based on past surveys include a swimming pool, a new library, or a modified version of a community center or pavilion.
- Members would like input from the community. They suggested reaching out to the area townships and to some local business owners to solicit their input on projects that would have regional significance.

b. Depot Park Concept Plan Overview

- Smythe gave an overview of the Depot Park concept, which favors green space, native plants, and an overlook feature for the river. Smythe explained that staff are trying to stay within the budget of \$60,000, which was the grant money from Lake Central Bank for this project.
- Members appreciated the native plants and the focus on low-maintenance options. They also liked the rail-themed proposals. Members expressed concern that this park would be under-utilized unless it had a unique feature that was a draw for people to visit. Members suggested some sort of unique feature as part of the river overlook area that would get people to want to

visit. Many people like to relax or take photos by the falls in Riverside Park. Members would like to see a feature that is unique to this park that can't be found in other city parks.

8. New Business

a. Snowmobile Trail Permit

- Smythe explained the snowmobile state trail permit request for approval. The map does not appear to have changed, other than the city limits. Members did not have any concerns about approving. They suggested including language about staying within the marked area at Riverside Park.

b. Ball Team Questions

1. Define "Season" for Fee Schedule

- Members discussed questions from staff about how to apply the fee schedule. For purposes of the park rental schedule, a "season" is a one-year period for the same team.

2. Unpaid Shed Invoice

- Smythe explained the unpaid shed invoice. Members asked staff to invite a team representative to the next Park Commission meeting to discuss further.

c. Park and Recreation Commission

1. Plan for Establishment – Goals, Mission

2. Draft for By-Laws

3. Implementation Timeline

- Members discussed that the meeting was running long and needed to be wrapped up before the City Council meeting, which follows.
- **MOTION TO TABLE** by Plaggerman, seconded by Petty, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

d. Other Business

- Member Schindele asked if the city owns an edger and stated that the hockey rink at Lions Park needs some edging work. There is snow buildup all around the edges making hockey play difficult. Smythe will check.

9. Reports

a. Local Option Sales Tax Financial Report

b. Project Status Report

- Members did not have questions on the reports.

10. Next Meeting Date

a. March 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

- Next meeting date confirmed for March 9, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

11. Adjournment

- **MOTION** to adjourn by Schindele, seconded by Plaggerman, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 3-0.** Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

ATTEST



Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator