

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

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

- Chair Petty called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Meeting began late due to lack of quorum. Members present included Petty, Plaggerman, and Senn. Member Schindele was absent. Also present was City Administrator Smythe.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of Minutes from February 9, 2026 Meeting

- **MOTION** by Plaggerman to approve minutes from February 9, 2026 meeting as presented, seconded by Senn, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

4. Public Forum

- Dan Franklin from the St. Cloud Rugby Club was present to revisit the discussion about a proposed shared pavilion.
- Members discussed the design, estimated cost of \$1.3 – \$1.5 million, and how the costs would be split with team and city. Mr. Franklin stated the team has fundraised about \$225,000 to date and was hoping the city would contribute a larger share, as it would be a city-owned facility.
- Members discussed the status of the Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) and what amount of funds might be expected to remain after current projects that are in progress. Smythe stated the city would have a better idea after the T.H.24 and CSAH 7 projects are bid out in April/May this spring, since the city's share of trail costs would be included in those projects. The city also does not yet know if the LOST will be extended. This could create additional funding if it is extended.
- Members and Mr. Franklin discussed possible grant opportunities.
- Members asked staff to obtain information about the building at Goenner Park in Clear Lake, as to their costs, source of funding, and materials/plans.

5. Old Business

a. Clearwater River Cats – Israel Carper

- Members asked about the cost-sharing arrangement for the new shed at Sportsman's Park. The team's share of the costs are \$3,000, for which the team was invoiced. The team's Treasurer dropped off a check for \$1,000 but did not have a plan for the remainder. The City Council had given the team 12 months to pay their share. Members asked how the team intended to move forward. Mr. Carper requested that the team pay \$250 per month and be invoiced each month by the city for the remainder. Members will bring this to the City Council for approval.
- Mr. Carper stated that they are pulling their liquor license application, as they do not intend to have beer sales this year. He stated the licensing and insurance costs are too high. Member Senn stated the Lions Club could assist by providing a beer wagon upon request.
- Members asked about the previous plan to replace mounds. Mr. Carper stated that this was originally for the 2nd ballfield but that it had not been completed. Smythe noted that funding

would need to be re-allocated by the City Council, as the original approval has lapsed. Chair Petty suggested that temporary mounds would be a better option for the 2nd field, as it gets used by other organizations for different sporting events.

- Members discussed use of the Sportsman’s Park pavilion and possible conflicts with other renters. Mr. Carper stated that the team leaves their products in the pavilion during the season unless they are notified of a rental by city hall, at which time they remove items to the shed. Smythe noted that there have been staffing changes at city hall, so staff may not be aware that this is the arrangement the team is utilizing.

b. Local Option Sales Tax Project List

- Members suggested projects for extension of the LOST included the possible acquisition of the Houle property along the Mississippi River with a connecting walkway to Depot Park and the previously discussed El Dorado Park Pavilion proposal from the rugby team.

c. Depot Park Updates

- Members reviewed the examples of a proposed scenic overlook. Feedback was generally positive, but Members would like more information on estimated costs.
- Member Plaggerman suggested that a replica caboose would be a nice addition.

6. New Business

a. Park and Recreation Commission

- 1. Plan for Establishment – Goals, Mission**
- 2. Draft for By-Laws**
- 3. Implementation Timeline**

- Members discussed the current Park Commission by-laws and suggested that these form a good base for a possible Park and Recreation Commission. They suggested making changes to the mission statement with some added amendments. The timeline for implementation will depend on whether the LOST gets extended and the amount of public interest in serving.

d. Other Business

- None.

7. Reports

a. Local Option Sales Tax Financial Report

b. Project Status Report

- Members did not have questions on the reports. Smythe provided a brief splash pad update, stating that we are still on schedule for a spring installation.

8. Next Meeting Date

a. April 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

- Next meeting date confirmed for April 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

- **MOTION** to adjourn by Senn, seconded by Plaggerman, all voted aye. **MOTION CARRIED 3-0.** Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

ATTEST



Annita M. Smythe, City Administrator