



City Council Workshop
April 13, 2026, 6:00 pm
City Hall Council Chambers
201 NW Douglas Blvd.
541.679.6739 Info.

The workshop was called to order at 6 o'clock by Mayor Christie Knutson. Councilors Dorie White, Dave Cunningham, Allen Hobson were also present. Nick Wiggins was excused. Staff members in attendance were city manager Thomas McIntosh, public works superintendent Andy Howell, public works foreman Megan Hamilton, street and utility operator Shiloh Joers, park utility worker Corey Breeding, and city recorder Cindy Sarti.

Park Board Restructuring

McIntosh began with a presentation including photographs of current condition the playground equipment is in. Other photos included rotten wood beams at the Riverbend Park Pavilion, and a dangerous power service, also at Riverbend Park. McIntosh emphasized the need to address these issues and correct them immediately.

The current Park Board platform consists of an all-volunteer panel of 7 citizens. There is no requirement that members reside within the city limits.

McIntosh suggested creating a new platform consisting of a combination of 2 staff members, one city councilor, and 2 members of the community who reside in the city limits and consolidating all decision making regarding parks to the City Council level.

Park Board chair Jack Holland stated that the previous city manager basically "handcuffed" the board, limiting their duties to listening to the needs of citizens and making recommendations to council and that they could not fundraise.

Councilor Cunningham asked about the progress of Parks Master Plan. McIntosh stated it was a Park Board task and that no progress had been made. Cunningham also asked if URA funding could be utilized for parks infrastructure. McIntosh stated the projects needed to lie within the Urban Renewal District.

Councilor Cunningham would like to know if anything could be extracted from the 2016 Master Plan.

McIntosh asked if the "handcuffs" were removed, what steps would the board take to address park deficiencies?


Cunningham would like to update the job descriptions created by the previous city manager.

Andy Howell, Public Works superintendent, said if it isn't working, it needs to be fixed.

Jack Holland would like for the current board to be given another chance to fix it.

There will be dedication of the Community Park Pavilion to Lloyd Stutzman on May 23rd at 2pm.

The workshop adjourned at 7:12. Respectfully submitted by Cindy Sarti, City Recorder.


Christie Knutson, Mayor

Attest:


Cindy Sarti, City Recorder

Motion to approve with corrections by Allen Hobson; Second by Dorie White. Unanimous.

