

Clayton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting
Monday, January 5th, 2026

Commission Members Present: Matt Durham, Betsy Meyland-Smith, Erin Sucher-O'Grady

Commission Members Absent: Paul Courter, Stephen Eisele, Adam Weygandt

Ex-Officio Members Present: Ben Beinfeld, Becky Patel, Kami Waldman

Staff Present: Valerie Egel, Ryan Harrison, Micky Kaufman, Toni Siering, Justin Whipple

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the December meeting were approved with one correction.

Addresses from the Audience:

There were no comments from the audience.

Livable Communities Master Plan (LCMP) Update:

Toni Siering, Parks and Recreation Director, shared an update on the Livable Communities Master Plan. Commission members Matt Durham and Ben Beinfeld reported that the design was well-received at the Board of Aldermen meeting, and a public forum is planned for either January 26th or January 28th at the Center of Clayton. The Commission members were asked to disseminate information about the public forum, and the marketing team will assist in promoting the event through various channels.

The Commission discussed the project's progress and plans, with a focus on the design and potential inclusion of an ice rink. Ms. Siering explained that the flexible green area could accommodate the rink, but it would not be a permanent city investment. Additionally, the designers incorporated a lawn option with reinforced natural turf.

Shaw Park Aquatic Center (SPAC) – End of Season Report:

Overview: Ryan Harrison, Aquatics Supervisor, presented the 2025 End-of-Season report for the SPAC, detailing upgrades and financial performance. He reported challenges due to inclement weather and water issues, leading to lower revenue and higher expenses. The Commission discussed strategies for improving season pass sales and addressing staffing challenges at the end of the season.

Revenue: The summer saw a 12% decrease in overall revenue compared to FY24. Season pass sales were under budget by approximately \$37,000 due to inclement weather at the start of the season, as well as the impact of the tornado on May 16th. Programming was slow due to fewer instructor availability for outside aquatic programs, as well as fewer swim lessons conducted at SPAC due to membership requirements. Overall, summer expenses increased by 3% over FY24 due to an increase in water usage as a result of a slow leak in the dive tank. Overall, net operations yielded a 61% cost recovery for the 2025 season.

Mr. Harrison stated that 50% of season pass revenue comes from residents. Non-residents and corporate rates contribute significantly, though corporate pass sales have declined. The discussion included exploring ways to improve convenience for residents signing up for memberships, such as adding more registration stations and promoting early enrollment through events.

The Commission discussed potential revenue opportunities during peak usage times, such as weekend events, with suggestions including raffles and admission fees. Concerns were raised about space allocation for lap swimmers versus recreational swimmers, with some Commission members advocating for more recreational swim time.

Highlights: Mr. Harrison stated that new epoxy flooring was installed throughout the facility before the 2025 season. The flooring had failed by the end of the season. The contractor determined that an installation error was responsible and reinstalled the flooring at no cost to the City.

Mr. Harrison discussed the various events and activities held at SPAC, including the 87th Annual CSP Tideriders Invitational Swim Meet, the 56th Annual Wally Lunt Water Polo Tournament, and the Southwest Municipal Swim and Dive prelims and finals. He highlighted the success of these events, noting the high number of participants and visitors, as well as the positive feedback from other municipalities. He also mentioned the 11th Annual Inkwel Law Clayton Kids Triathlon, which was managed by Big Shark Bike Company.

Mr. Harrison detailed various aquatic programs and summer activities, including triathlon camps, water polo, lifeguard training, scuba classes, and swimming lessons. He noted high participation in scuba and lifeguard programs.

Facility and equipment improvements for the upcoming season include replacement of two diving boards, new perimeter grates for the competition pool and dive tank, and a new two-compartment freezer for concessions.

Staffing: SPAC continues to feel the effects of the nationwide lifeguard shortage, though the situation has improved. The annual decline in staff availability in early August through Labor Day weekend shows no sign of shifting.

Operational Notes: Mr. Harrison will look into the feasibility and logistics of adding high-top seating to the upper level of the SPAC pool area for events and general use.

Mr. Harrison will coordinate with Leslie Tolliver, Human Resources Manager, to finalize a date for the 2026 City of Clayton Employee Family Splash event at SPAC.

Mr. Kaufman will implement a yard sign campaign with QR codes for registration to improve on-time registration rates.

Director's Report:

Ms. Siering stated that she will convene with the appropriate group to begin the Remembrance Park Plaque project.

Advertising for the Municipal Service Technician II position is forthcoming, and we anticipate filling the position within the next few months.

Ms. Siering will keep the Commission informed regarding the anticipated completion date and any dedication plans for the Osage memorial in Oak Knoll Park.

Mr. Kaufman will begin work on establishing the Youth Sports Advisory Committee.

Next Meeting:

The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be held on February 9th, 2026, in person and via Zoom.

Old Business / New Business:

Nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Doris Patzius