

**Clayton Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**  
**Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Commission Members Present:** Karen Berry-Elbert, Matt Durham, Stephen Eisele, Erin Sucher-O'Grady

**Commission Members Absent:** Paul Courter, Adam Weygandt

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** Becky Patel, Kami Waldman

**Ex-Officio Members Absent:** Ben Beinfeld

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

**Call to Order:**

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

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the March meeting were approved as written. The April meeting was cancelled.

**Addresses from the Audience:**

There were no comments from the audience.

**Bob Chapman Memorial Pad:**

Alex Elmstad, Clayton Community Foundation (CCF) Executive Director, presented a proposal for enhancements to the Chapman Plaza pond and fountain area, including the addition of a memorial bench with a pad honoring the late Bob Chapman, landscaping enhancements, and rock modifications. He noted that the project is fully funded by CCF and will be executed by M&P Landscaping, CCF's current maintenance contractor. The proposal will be submitted to the City Council for final approval.

A motion was made to approve the project as recommended by CCF to City Council for final approval - recognizing the alignment with parks standards, the CCF's ability to facilitate the gift, and the value-added benefit to this Clayton asset. The Commission approved the recommendation unanimously.

**Shaw Park Aquatic Center (SPAC) Cabana Rental Proposal:**

Micky Kaufman, Recreation Superintendent, and Ryan Harrison, Aquatic Supervisor, presented a proposal to implement a Cabana Rental Program at the site of the former "misting tent" adjacent to the bleachers at SPAC. The proposal recommends an investment of \$6,654.08 to establish one fully equipped cabana area, with funding included in the FY26 SPAC budget. The initial plan proposed a 48-hour advance reservation requirement with a rental fee of \$100 for four-hour time blocks. The Commission discussed modifications to allow for same-day rentals, including a 15-minute transition period between reservations. The Commission agreed to move forward with the revised plan, maintaining the \$100 fee structure while providing greater flexibility for guests.

A motion was made to approve the SPAC Cabana Rental program for the 2026 summer season, with the modification that staff works out the process for same-day rentals if space permits. The Commission approved the recommendation unanimously.

**Hanley Park Free Little Art Gallery Request:**

Toni Siering, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented a resident proposal to establish a Little Free Art Gallery at Hanley Park, featuring curated community artwork. Commissioners raised concerns regarding ongoing maintenance and oversight. While a community volunteer offered to assist with keeping the gallery clean and removing inappropriate items, the Commission noted that long-term responsibility for monitoring the space remains undefined. The discussion also sought clarification on acceptable types of artwork—such as small sculptures, pottery, paintings, and sketches—and compared management approaches to those used for existing Little Free Libraries. The Commission agreed to place the proposal on a future agenda, with the gallery

proponent present for further discussion.

**Director's Report:**

Ms. Siering provided an update on the lighting improvement projects at Shaw Park Tennis Center and Oak Knoll Park, highlighting current progress and anticipated installation timelines. She and Justin Whipple, Parks Superintendent, will continue overseeing both projects to help ensure completion by mid-August to ensure future grant funding is available. The final Dark Skies application will be submitted once the work is finalized.

Ms. Siering discussed planning for Remembrance Park programming and updates on the park plaques. The Committee will finalize the wording for both the main memorial plaque and individual honoree plaques and move forward with installation. Additionally, Leann Hogan, Community Recreation Supervisor, is working to develop chess programming at Remembrance Park through collaboration with the local chess club and outreach to potential school district partners.

Ms. Siering will coordinate with the Osage Nation to schedule an unveiling ceremony for the Osage Memorial plaque in late summer (August/September) and will work to make educational materials available to the Clayton School District when feasible.

Updates were shared on repairs to the Hanley House, as well as a tree planting ceremony scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup>, honoring Susan Hanley, a direct descendant. Ms. Siering will secure bids and contracts for the roof replacement and continue to direct the projects needed to reopen the house in 2027.

Essential repairs to the Center of Clayton pool were discussed, including replacement of the pool flooring and skylight repairs, which will impact Center operations and member access. The pool closure and flooring replacement are scheduled to begin on Monday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. Staff will coordinate temporary member access to SPAC during the closure and plan for skylight repairs during next year's scheduled shutdown.

She also addressed changes to concession services at SPAC and highlighted recent and upcoming community events. Mr. Kaufman will coordinate with the new concessionaire on setup and menu planning for SPAC and explore potential expansion to other sports facilities.

Finally, Ms. Siering announced that the August meeting has been rescheduled to August 10<sup>th</sup> and confirmed that the September meeting will be moved to September 14<sup>th</sup> due to Labor Day.

**Next Meeting:**

The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, in person and via Zoom.

**Old Business / New Business:**

Nothing to report.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted By: Doris Patzius