

City of Aurora Park Board
Aurora City Hall - City Council Chambers
2 W. Pleasant St. Aurora, Missouri 65605
Thursday, January 15, 2026 - 6:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

- President: Tracey Houchin (2026)
- Vice President: Nikki Kennedy (2028)
- Board Member: David Brammell (2026)
- Board Member: Melody McKinley (2028)
- Board Member: Jesse Rathbun (2026)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City of Aurora Park Board Meeting held on December 18, 2025.

Documents:

[12-18-2025 - MINUTES.PDF](#)

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.I. Park Concerns To Be Addressed By Park Board

4.II. Additional Park Concerns

5. STAFF UPDATES

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

A citizen desiring to speak on an item not on the agenda may do so at this time. Each citizen is limited to three minutes and the Park Board will not take action or discuss items at this time. Discussion should be limited to matters of Park Board business and public comment is not permitted in regard to personnel matters or on pending legal matters. Items introduced under "Public Comment" may become agenda items at a later date.

7. ADJOURNMENT

12/18/2025 - Minutes

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| President Tracey Houchin | Absent |
| Vice President Nikki Kennedy | Present |
| Board Member David Brammell | Absent |
| Board Member Melody McKinley | Present |
| Board Member Jesse Rathbun | Present |

Ex Officio Members:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| City Manager Carrie Howlett | Absent |
| Mayor Tony Kennedy | Present |
| Parks Director Travis Wittenborn | Present |
| Rec Center Director Anthony Finzo | Absent |

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Jesse Rathbun made a motion to approve Park Board minutes from November 20, 2025. Vice President Nikki Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| President Tracey Houchin | Absent |
| Vice President Nikki Kennedy | Aye |
| Board Member David Brammell | Absent |
| Board Member Melody McKinley | Aye |
| Board Member Jesse Rathbun | Aye |

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1. Discussion: Assessment Of Parks

The Park Board had been previously tasked to visit each City park, note their concerns, and share them at this Park Board meeting.

Some common issues across the city parks discussed were:

1. Painting. The Park Board collectively stated that each park needs fresh paint to brighten up and to cover visible rust on equipment. Fences, gazebos, and even trash cans should be painted. The colors chosen should be bright could make the playground equipment more inviting to the community.
2. Mulch. As mulch is utilized in the play areas, the mulch levels not reaching the sidewalks beside it is of great concern. It was noted this could create a fall hazard, especially for those in wheelchairs or

strollers.

3. Playground equipment safety. As much of the equipment is older, Parks Director Travis Wittenborn shared that finding the proper replacement parts is a growing challenge.

4. Power washing playground equipment.

Specific concerns for each park were shared, as well.

1. South Tot

- Needs wider path to make handicap accessible.
- Space on swing set missing swing. Possible place for handicap swing. Would need to meet ADA requirements, including access and proper surfacing.
- Grills need to be cleaned.
- Unsafe equipment with rusted metal curling into sharp ends.

2. Oak Park.

- Repair Orange Fence

3. Skate Park.

◦ The Board asked Community member Kyle Farnsworth to discuss the White Park Skate Park. As an avid skateboarder, Farnsworth shared some of his biggest concerns for the skate park:

- He noted better lighting and security cameras could help deter some of the vandalism that has occurred at the Skate Park.
- He also recommended a sign directing the community and visitors to the skate park location.
- He encouraged regularly painting the ramps, as the special paint used helps maintain grip.

◦ Parks Director Travis Wittenborn shared his concern for keeping the skate park at its current location in a flood plain. He would like to see the skate park be moved to higher ground to avoid water damage. Wittenborn shared there may be grants available to help with the costs. As this could be a large budgetary item, Farnsworth stated addressing the concerns he mentioned and adding benches for seating would go a long way in encouraging the skateboarding community.

◦ The Board requested Farnsworth create a dream list of the obstacles he would like to see in a potentially larger skateboard park to discuss at a future Park Board meeting.

4. White Park

- Entrance should be more inviting, bright, with directions to the various amenities.
- Old sand volleyball court is dangerous, with old concrete coming up. Recommendation: take it out, adding signage indicating directions to new sand volleyball court.

5. North Tot

- Needs a small, new piece of playground equipment.
- Tree needs to be trimmed. Parks Department has plans to do so.

6. Crosby

- Grill should be replaced as it is rusted out.
- Two poles at entrance should be taken out or new sign hung.
- Dark. Lighting is an issue.
- Spanish pavilion - cracks, leaks.
 - Wittenborn recommends long-term solution of replacing the pavilion with a more modern pavilion.

Mayor Tony Kennedy urged the board to consider which of the concerns listed above would be things the Park Board could handle themselves and with volunteer groups. He also encouraged them to list those that should be prioritized in the budget.

The Board will discuss these items at the next Park Board meeting.

Board member Jesse Rathbun made a motion to table this discussion on a community survey until sometime in the spring or summer of 2026. Board member Melody McKinley seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows:

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|------------------------------|--------|
| President Tracey Houchin | Absent |
| Vice President Nikki Kennedy | Aye |
| Board Member David Brammell | Absent |
| Board Member Melody McKinley | Aye |
| Board Member Jesse Rathbun | Aye |

5. STAFF UPDATES

Parks Director Travis Wittenborn gave a brief update on some of the work the Parks Department has been doing in the last month:

- winterizing bathrooms
- repairs at the gun range
- working on equipment
- repaired pool umbrella

Rec Center Director Anthony Finzo sent his update via email but was not able to be present for the meeting. This update is attached in the minutes.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Nikki Kennedy requested a motion to adjourn the Park Board meeting. Board Member Jesse Rathbun made the motion to adjourn. Board Member Melody McKinley seconded the motion. Motion passed with votes documented as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| President Tracey Houchin | Absent |
| Vice President Nikki Kennedy | Aye |
| Board Member David Brammell | Absent |
| Board Member Melody McKinley | Aye |
| Board Member Jesse Rathbun | Aye |

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.