



City of Blaine

Park Advisory Board

May 27, 2025 | 7:00 PM
Blaine City Hall
10801 Town Square Drive NE
Blaine, MN 55449

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Blaine Park Advisory Board met in the Council Chambers of City Hall on Tuesday, May 27, 2025. Chair Lester called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Boardmembers Lizakowski, Neubert, VanBuren and Chair Lester.

Members Absent: Boardmembers Henderson, Paulseth and Tshakert.

Staff Present: Jerome Krieger, Senior Parks and Recreation Manager.

Guest: None.

3. Approval of Minutes

- 3.1. 2025-271 Approval of the March 25, 2025 Park Board meeting minutes.
Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Motion by Boardmember VanBuren to approve the minutes of March 25, 2025 as amended. Motion seconded by Boardmember Neubert. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Open Forum for Citizen Input

Chair Lester opened the Open Forum at 7:02PM.

Cassandra _____, resident in Quail Creek, explained she would like to receive an update regarding the tennis courts. She reported she had sent emails and had not received a response regarding the use of the tennis courts for pickleball.

Senior Recreation Manager Krieger reported staff had reached out to other cities to learn how

they were managing this situation. He indicated no other cities had different signage than what Blaine had. He stated he had spoken to the individuals that use the pickleball courts during the day making them aware of the fact this was a tennis court. He indicated the city does not have plans to light additional courts at this time, but he hoped people would have enough common sense to share the courts with everyone else. He asked if people were sharing the space.

Ms. _____ stated people were not sharing the court and were still putting their pickleball nets in the green space. She commented she was looking to use the space from 7:00PM to 9:00PM. She suggested staff reach out to Forest Lake to learn more about their tennis court/pickleball court signage.

Mr. Krieger encouraged Ms. _____ to contact the police department to make them aware of this concern. He stated he would make the CSO's aware of this concern.

_____ questioned how much it would cost to light the tennis courts and asked if this expenditure could be included in a future budget. She commented on how she was having to go outside the city of Blaine to find lighted tennis courts and as a taxpaying citizen she was hoping to find courts within the city.

Mr. Krieger stated the price was roughly \$275,000 to light a baseball field. He estimated a tennis court would cost \$125,000. He commented on how it may be difficult to light the tennis courts at Jim Peterson given the proximity of the pond and the overhead power lines. Further discussion ensued regarding how new parks develop and it was noted the city had one more park to develop in the northern portion of Blaine.

Chair Lester closed Open Forum at 7:18PM.

5. New Business

5.1. 2025-272 Discussion of 2026 Capital improvement Projects *Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager*

Mr. Krieger discussed the upcoming capital improvement projects for the city's parks system for the next five years. He discussed the two funding sources that were available to provide funds for parks improvements, which were the Parks and Trails Fund/ Neighborhood Park Improvement Fund and the Parks CIP Fund. He explained the city has replaced 31 playgrounds in the last ten years and added four new parks. It was noted the city did a trail and parking lot assessment on all trails in 2021 and 2022. Since the study was completed, staff has been working to fix and replace the worst trails first. Each year staff tries to complete three parks with of trail repair work. He commented further on the park and trail improvement projects that were proposed for 2026 through 2030 and requested comments or questions from the board.

Boardmember VanBuren questioned why some of the budgeted amounts have been reduced for 2026. Mr. Krieger stated dollars have been shifted to reduce the overall budget to \$650,000 or below.

Boardmember Lizakowski inquired if trails would be completed per ward or would the worst be replaced first. Mr. Krieger explained the trails would be replacing the worst first.

Chair Lester asked if the numbers should strictly be viewed as placeholders. Mr. Krieger stated the numbers should be viewed as placeholders at this time and may be slightly under budget.

Chair Lester questioned if prices were still on the rise or had pricing leveled off since COVID. Mr. Krieger stated he believed prices have begun to level off.

Boardmember Lizakowski asked why the funding for the Blaine Baseball Park had increased by \$100,000 in 2026. Mr. Krieger explained this additional funding would assist with installing a new scoreboard and netting to keep baseballs out of the stormwater pond.

Motion by Boardmember Neubert to recommend the 2026 Capital Improvement Projects Plan move forward to the City Council. Motion seconded by Boardmember VanBuren. Motion approved unanimously.

5.2. 2025-273 Park Updates

Sponsors: Jerome Krieger, Sr. Recreation Manager

Mr. Krieger provided the Board with an update on the following matters:

- Ivy Hills, Olympia and Austin Playgrounds are in and just need some seeding. The basketball court at Olympia will begin soon.
- Staff are waiting for the May meeting of the watershed to get the final permit to add an infiltration pond at Sunrise Pond Park. Once we have that finalized, we will hire a contractor to construct the pond, courts, irrigation and seed the site.
- Staff have a contractor and electrician for the lights at the Blaine Baseball Complex field 5. Final approval will take place at the June 2 city council meeting. Staff hope to have the project starting by the week of July 13.
- The city hosted its annual Senior Safety Fair on May 1 at Fire Station 3. There were 188 seniors who took part in the event. Topics included safety and wellness as well as healthy living tips. The seniors enjoyed it!
- The senior bicycling and walking groups are back up and in motion and will be through October. The walking group walks on Mondays at 9am and the bikers cycle on Wednesdays at 10 am. Please check out our brochure and newsletter for more information.
- The city hosted an open house on April 28 at city hall for the Blaine Wetland Sanctuary trail project. There were about 30 attendees. There were residents from four different neighborhoods around the sanctuary. People were anxious for the project to start.

6. Adjournment

Boardmember VanBuren motioned to adjourn. Boardmember Lizakowski seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Chair Lester adjourned the meeting at 8:09PM.

