



Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 11:30 AM

City Hall Overflow Room, CH-116
203 Main Avenue East, Twin Falls, Idaho

Members: Micheal Metcalf, Chairperson; Christiana Sipe-Pauley, Vice- Chairperson; Debbie VanEngelen; Corey King; Steve Hayes; Olyvia Meyer; Todd Shaw; Paul Melni; Tom Bixler

1) Confirmation of Quorum/Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Metcalf called the meeting to order at 11:39 AM

A quorum was present.

Members Present: Micheal Metcalf, Todd Shaw, Christiana Sipe-Pauley, Olyvia Meyer, Debbie Van Engelen, Steve Hayes, Tom Bixler, Paul Melni

Members Absent: Corey King

Staff Present: Wendy Davis, Mitch Humble, Council Liaison Cherie Vollmer, Chance Munns, Stacy McClintock, Kate Etzold, Mable Shurtleff

2) General Public Input

No public present.

3) Consent Calendar

a) Request to approve the minutes from the following meeting: August 12, 2025.

Commissioner Meyer entered the meeting at 11:34 am.

MOTION: Commissioner Melni moved to approve the consent agenda. Commissioner Sipe-Pauley seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed all members present voted. Approved 7 to 0.

4) Items of Consideration

a) Donation policy inscription discussion.

Commissioner VanEngelen entered the meeting at 11:42 am.

Director Davis introduced Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Nicole Swafford to address the Commission's questions regarding the current donation policy and inscription requirements.

Counselor Swafford presented a recent supreme court case addressing government speech and its definition. She described the difference between private speech and government speech.

Discussion ensued.

Clarification of what types of language and/or logos should be allowed in public spaces and deemed government speech was requested. It was determined that the Commission approval and recommendation to council of the wording on a plaque becomes government speech.

Counselor Swafford noted that the current policy puts the protections in place to limit speech and sets acceptable parameters for government speech. She described the concern with lifting the current limitations.

Next, the Commission discussed logos. A logo for a service club was allowed, and concern was

raised if that needed to be revisited. Counselor Swafford stated that most cities do not retroactively correct any that had been approved in the past and suggested it may be a good idea to revisit the policy to ensure that logos are addressed.

- b) Update on Recreation Program Survey
Recreation Supervisor McClintock presented:

Sample questions:

- Sports-specific questions are for Baseball/Softball, Soccer, and Basketball.
- A community recommendation survey/ weekly surveys are to be posted on our website, Instagram and Facebook page in the near future.

There was discussion about QR Code on business cards, which will be revisited.

Commissioner Metcalf and the commission thanked Recreation Supervisor McClintock for her hard work. He stated that the survey looks really good and will gather a lot of useful information.

- c) Presentation on implementation of park impact fees collected for park development in lieu of requiring property donations or collecting fees.
Director Davis explained that a recent change to Title 10 in the City Code eliminated the park dedication requirement and replaced it with park impact fees, which provides funds and allows the City the discretion to negotiate with the developer for park land purchase using those funds. She shared an example of a recent instance where property within a development was identified, and the City worked with the developer to purchase four acres to be developed as a neighborhood park using park impact fees. Davis demonstrated how the Park and Recreation Master Plan was used to identify the area as a need for a park.

Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Sipe-Pauley asked if there would be changes to the properties that are currently half retention pond, half park. Director Davis explained that retention ponds are still a requirement, and the title change only applies to plats moving forward, not retroactively. Use of impact fees for improvements was defined as needing to be tied directly to impacts of growth vs capital improvement projects. Director Davis noted that replacing a playground would not be a part of the impact fee, this would be from capitol improvement.

Remaining Park In Lieu fees were discussed. Commissioner Meyer asked for a list of projects and the budget available for them. It was agreed that would be added to next month's agenda.

- d) Commission orientation
No action taken.

5) Department Updates

- a) Department Update: September 2025
Superintendent Munns presented:

- Vista Bonita — project with CORE working as our GM. The design is due for review at the end of September with a cost forecast to be seen.
- Canyon Trail Junction — should start later this month. Fencing will be put up with some equipment stationed at the trail head.
- Pool — bubble in place. The pool will have the groundbreaking ceremony tomorrow for the new development and encouraged the Commission to attend.
- New approved projects — 2 new tennis courts and 4 pickleball courts as replacements at Harmon Park. Scheduled to be slated in October.
- Hankin/Elizabeth — a budget request for development has been initiated.
- Skate park — infrastructure improvement and possible future expansion.

He noted some of the skate park goers were excited about the project and asked if they were able to help with fundraising.

There was discussion about the Department being short of staff due to a recent death in the team. In a future meeting, there will be a request for a tree donation and plaque in his memory for the Commission's approval.

Council Liaison Vollmer asked about the timeline for the Canyon Trail Junction project. Superintendent Munns noted some tasks would be delayed due to the upcoming cold weather. As a result, the completion of the project is likely to be Spring 2026.

Commissioner Shaw voiced his concern about the court being too close to the road and noise pollution.

Superintendent Munns answered, we can visit that and mitigate it.

Director Davis noted there was a recent case in Boise stemming from noise, and we should conduct research to see if the planned tennis courts location would require adjustments.

Director Davis suggested a neighboring area Open House for feedback.

Recreation Supervisor McClintock presented:

- There was participant growth for team sports.
- Girls basketball registration just closed.
- The Highland game is coming up at the end of this month.
- Adult one pitch is nearing the end of the season.
- Flag football registration is in process.
- Volleyball registration is in process.
- 6 pickleball courts at Frontier Park have been resurfaced.
- The tiny robot is a positive tool for us which saves time and manpower.

Outdoor Supervisor Etzold presented:

- Summer ending soon.
- A new dog station is ready for service on the Canyon Rim Trail near the Evel Knievel Jump site.

- New Canyon Rim Trail signs are being put up at the beginning of the trail and in the parking lot which maps the whole trail.
- 4 new donation benches have been installed.
- Shoshone and Dierkes have been very popular this summer, and now we are preparing to do maintenance.
 1. Replacements of gates and picnic tables.
 2. Playground platforms to be placed.
 3. A new gate at the boat ramp.
 4. Emergency team was thanked for attending the fire that happened recently.
 5. Recent underground spring pop-ups have been saturating the park and new trenches have been dug to divert water.
 6. Evel Knievel has a more usable parking lot now.

Director Davis noted, the golf report has been forwarded to the Commission. She noted speaking with Aquatics Supervisor Pauley on the phone, and his update includes an open house for the groundbreaking and that the bubble is up.

Commissioner Sipe-Pauley asked for an update on the Recreation Center.

Commissioner Meyer asked for the Recreation Center Committee to attend the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Director Davis answered, the Recreation Center Committee could be invited, but there is nothing to report at this time. The Committee was created to monitor a project which we no longer have funding for land purchase. We tried to get a meeting set up in August but did not have a quorum and are currently working on setting up an executive session in September. Until a location can be presented to City Council, the Recreation Center can not be built, hence the project can not proceed.

Commissioner Metcalf suggested the Commission review the maps to see what project should be worked on.

Director Davis answered yes, and believed Commissioner Meyer wanted to see the overlay of the projects.

Commissioner Melni asked about the amount of acreage needed for the project.

Director Davis answered, about 6–7 acres minimum but has been able to locate 9–13 acres, which would allow for future phases.

There was discussion about a plot on Blue Lakes.

Council Liaison Vollmer answered that Planning and Zoning may have rezoned the location, and it will be put into use after removal of restrictions. But with limited funding to enhance, develop or repair and with costs continually climbing, this becomes a more difficult task.

Director Davis showed a project map on screen which shows neighborhood parks, community parks, and regional parks. It indicates some locations which lack services for the neighborhood, but the community parks would close the gap and provide a service to the neighborhood.

There's mention of privately owned spaces that also provide the service.

There was mention of locations for consideration of park placement due to lack of service.

Commissioner Sipe-Pauley wanted to see the list of projects that aligned with the map.

Commissioner Meyer asked if the maps shown could be found online.

Director Davis answered yes, they are a part of the master plan which can be found online and is in the Commission's shared folder.

Superintendent Munns noted there are locations that are identified as having low potential due to a lack of water or other reasons that would not be ideal for a park-related development.

Director Davis noted the Commission needs to look at this and update the master plan.

Commissioner VanEngelen asked for the number of accessible parks available in the city.

Director Davis noted some of the parks were built with accessibility while some older parks have that enhancement added. Many of the parks do have locations for inclusivity but some of the older ones may not have.

Superintendent Munns noted some of the parks have the potential to have that enhancement.

Commissioner Metcalf noted topics for the next agenda; Master plan, Recreation Center Update, and the current list of planned improvements.

Director Davis noted in the upcoming months, the Commission should begin focusing on projects and budgets.

Commissioner Metcalf asked for the design of Vista Bonita be included in the next meeting.

Commissioner VanEngelen asked about the restrooms' closure timeline.

Superintendent Munns answered, usually when it gets colder, tentatively October 15.

6) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 01:07 PM

Mable Shurtleff

Mable Shurtleff, Project Coordinator
Parks and Recreation Department