



Twin Falls Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 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; Steve Hayes; Olyvia Meyer; Todd Shaw; Paul Melni; Tom Bixler; Mckenzie Redd

1) Confirmation of Quorum/Call Meeting to Order

Commissioner Metcalf called the meeting to order at 11:38 AM

A quorum was present.

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

Staff Present: Wendy Davis, Chance Munns, Mitch Humble, Craig Hawkins, Kate Sullivan, Mable Shurtleff

2) General Public Input

No public present.

3) Consent Calendar

MOTION: Commissioner Sipe-Pauley moved to approve the consent agenda as written. Commissioner Melni seconded the motion. Roll call vote showed all members present voted. Approved 8 to 0.

a) Request to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2026 Commission meeting

4) Items of Consideration

a) Welcome and introductions for Commissioner McKenzie Redd

The Commission formally welcomed Commissioner Mackenzie Reed.

Commissioner Reed introduced herself and shared that she grew up in the Magic Valley area and recently returned after approximately five years away. She noted that she is a physical therapist in the area and is excited to serve.

Commission members and staff introduced themselves for Commissioner Reed's benefit. Staff also reviewed basic meeting procedures, including:

- The meeting is a public meeting and livestreamed.
- Microphones should be used when speaking.

Commissioner VanEngelen entered the meeting at 11:43 a.m.

b) Review Auger Falls Conceptual Plan and evaluate the proposed archery and whitewater proposed uses for alignment

Open Space Supervisor Sullivan provided an overview of the Auger Falls Master Plan, including its major goals:

1. Environmental restoration
2. Conservation and habitat protection, including preservation of geologic features, historic resources, native habitat, and ecological balance
3. Public recreation and community access, including hiking, biking, nature observation, and educational opportunities

The Commission then discussed whether two proposed uses would be compatible with the master plan:

- A proposed archery range
- A proposed hydro wave / whitewater feature in the Snake River

Archery Range Discussion

Open Space Supervisor Sullivan explained that the proposed archery range concept had been discussed in relation to the Auger Falls area. Commission discussion focused on whether such a use would be compatible with the site's conservation and recreation goals.

Key Discussion Points

- Portions of the proposed area appear to overlap with areas identified in the master plan as needing protection or restoration.
- Staff noted those protected areas may include native plant communities, viewing areas, and habitat-sensitive areas.
- Existing informal trails and bike use are already present in the area, which could create conflicts with an archery range.
- Safety was a major concern, especially where public trail users could overlap with archery activities.
- Commissioners noted that range rules and public compliance would be difficult to manage in an open public setting.
- One alternative previously discussed was use of the quarry area, which may offer a more enclosed and controllable space; however, accessibility concerns were raised, particularly for older users.
- Another suggestion was to explore whether the archery group could partner with the existing gun range or consider other city-owned lands, including areas near Rock Creek.
- Staff noted that the appeal of the Auger Falls location, from the requesting group's perspective, included the ability to create a more natural field archery experience rather than a straight shooting lane.

Commission Direction

There was general agreement that:

- Archery is a worthwhile recreational activity and may be a good amenity for the community.

- However, Auger Falls may not be the best fit due to land use conflicts, safety concerns, and compatibility with the master plan.

Staff and the Commission agreed to compile follow-up questions for the requesting group so that a more complete presentation and evaluation can occur at a future meeting. No formal action was taken.

Hydro Wave / Whitewater Feature Discussion

The Commission also discussed a conceptual proposal for a hydro wave / whitewater feature in the Snake River near Auger Falls.

Key Discussion Points

- The concept would create a wave feature for kayakers and other whitewater recreation users.
- The proposal could potentially require additional supporting infrastructure such as:
 - Parking
 - Restrooms
 - Seating/viewing areas
 - Shade
 - Trails
 - Shoreline access improvements
- Questions were raised regarding:
 - River corridor impacts
 - Shoreline and habitat protection
 - Federal involvement or permitting requirements
 - Liability and risk management
 - Maintenance responsibilities
 - Funding for both construction and ongoing upkeep
- Commissioners stated that the concept is interesting and could be a strong recreational amenity, but emphasized that it is a large-scale project requiring much more detail before any recommendation could be made.

Commission Direction

The Commission agreed that additional information is needed, similar to the archery discussion. Staff and commissioners will prepare questions and request a more complete presentation.

No formal action was taken.

- c) Continue Discussion of Parks and Recreation Master Plan and park project priorities. The Commission held a broader discussion about recreation needs in Twin Falls, including:
- Outdoor basketball courts
 - General park activation and public gathering spaces
 - Recreation opportunities for teens and adults, not just organized youth activities
 - Improving underused park areas

- The importance of creating attractive, safe, accessible recreation spaces throughout the community

The discussion referenced ongoing conversations about park amenities and broader recreation planning.

No formal action was taken.

- d) Consider a request from Commissioner Sipe to review the Tree Commission as it relates to the duties of the Parks and Recreation Commission.
Item tabled.

- e) Consider a request to remove two Elms at 256 Filmore St.

Item tabled.

5) Department Updates

Recreation Center / Community Proposal

The Commission asked whether an individual from the community who has been independently promoting recreation center ideas should be invited to present.

Director Davis indicated she has had productive conversations with that individual, who appears well-intentioned and eager to advance recreation ideas in the community.

Director Davis stated that the individual would likely be invited to an upcoming committee meeting regarding the recreation center concept, and commissioners would be welcome to attend.

No formal action was taken.

Evil Knievel Jump Site Preservation

A commissioner asked whether there are development or park plans related to preservation of the Evel Knievel jump site, especially as nearby housing development proceeds.

Staff responded that:

- There are conceptual plans for preservation of the jump site and surrounding space.
- Funding had been requested previously but was not awarded.
- Staff continue to discuss options for preserving the site, which is experiencing increasing impact.

No formal action was taken.

6) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM

Mable Shurtleff

Mable Shurtleff, Project Coordinator
Parks and Recreation Department