

City of Franklin
Parks Commission Meeting
June 9, 2025
Minutes

Approved
July 14, 2025

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Michael Wrench called the June 9, 2025, Parks Commission meeting to order at 6:33 pm commencing in the Hearing Room at 9229 W. Loomis Road, Franklin, Wisconsin.

Present was Chair Michael Wrench, Vice Chair Kristen Stanley, Alderman Jason Craig and Commissioner Amy Serafin and Jesse Valdez and non-voting member Ex-Officio Michelle Runte. Excused was Commissioners Susan Lance and Mary Remington and non-voting member Ex-Officio Leah Voss. Also present were Principal Planner Marian Ecks, Department of Public Works Kevin Schlueter and Dale Borchardt and Mayor John Nelson.

II. Citizen Comment Period.

The citizen comment period opened at 6:35 p.m. and closed at 6:39 p.m.. One citizen present.

III. Approval of Minutes

a. Parks Commission Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2025.

Vice-Chair Stanley moved and Chair Wrench seconded to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2025 meeting. On voice, all voted 'aye'; motion carried (5-0-2).

IV. Unfinished Business

a. Update on parks maintenance.

Tabled to the next meeting.

b. Community Event Engagement. Involvement in Arbor Day, National Night Out, Trunk-or-Treat, Bike Rodeo and other City of Franklin community events.
Tabled to the next meeting.

c. Friends of Park / Park Watch. Discussion of creation of park watch or park cleanup group.
Tabled to the next meeting.

d. Saputo Donation Sign for Kayla's playground. Review of proposed sign acknowledging Saputo's support for new playground floor.
Unveiling of sign through a \$50,000 donation from Saputo Legacy Program. Parks Commission invited to Kayla's Playground June 18, 2025 at 9:30 AM. Kayla's Playground will be closed June 9th – June 11th for routine maintenance. Principal Planner Ecks will send out notification. Discussion only, no action taken.

e. Franklin Rec Department Pickleball Amenities Requests. Wind screen status, proposal to install permanent paddle holders on the courts – purchased by the Rec, and discussion on signage on the new courts.
Tabled to the next meeting.

- f. **Victory Creek Trail Mowing and Natural Resources.** Information about use of prescribed/controlled burns to maintain native vegetation and reduce invasive species.

Department of Public Works will take over trails. They performed recent burns and will for the next 2-3 years.

Tabled to the next meeting.

- g. **Discussion of combined Parks and Environmental Commission.** Scope and purpose of combined commissions, including areas of policy oversight, role in park administration, land conservation, and natural resource protection.

Introductions were brought forward for Parks and Environmental Commissioners. Any suggestions will be sent to staff.

- i. **Overview of City of Franklin Parks.** Tabled to next meeting.
- ii. **Overview of Natural Resource Special Exception procedures and standards of review.**
Planner Ecks presented.
- iii. **Review of Commission Recommendation Form for NRSEs.** Tabled

V. New Business

a. Election of a Chairperson.

Commissioner Serafin moved and Chair Wrench seconded to nominate Commissioner Jesse Valdez as Chair. On voice, all voted 'aye'; motion carried (5-0-2).

b. Election of a Vice-Chairperson.

Vice Chair Stanley moved and Chair Wrench seconded to nominate Alderman Jason Craig as Chair. On voice, all voted 'aye'; motion carried (5-0-2).

c. Appointment of a Secretary by the Chairperson.

Tabled to next meeting.

d. Franklin Rec Department League Reservation Requests - Tennis - Request to revise previously approved reservation of the Ken Windl Tennis Courts.

Vice Chair Stanley moved and Commissioner Serafin seconded a motion to post revised times to the website. On voice, all voted 'aye'; motion carried (5-0-2).

e. Resident Request. Request by Resident Andy Pelky to discuss invasive species management in Franklin.

- Principal Planner Ecks will bring invasive species information and initial suggestions to the combined group.
- Andy Pelky, a 20-year resident

- has experience with buckthorn
 - plan – educate residents on identification
 - compel residents to act
 - suggestion of enforcement for private buffer zones
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- Muskego/Franklin managing and cultivating native plants.
 - Noxious weed list through the City municipal code.
 - Presumed burn at Victory Park
 - Volunteer group
 - Weaponizing the Ordinance a concern
 - Cost
 - Speed
 - Issue with licensing or qualifications for spraying chemicals

Discussion only, no action taken.

- f. Resident Request.** Request by John Bergner, Franklin Civic Celebration Chairman, to use the pickleball courts at Legend Park, 9229 W. Loomis Road for a pickleball tournament from July 3 to July 6, 2025, 8 am to 6 pm.

Alderman Craig moved and Commissioner Valdez seconded a motion to approve a request to change the time of the pickleball tournament date of July 5, 2025 only from 8:00 am – 6:00 pm to 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Rain date is July 6, 2025. On voice, 3 voted ‘aye’ and 2 vote ‘nay’; motion carried (3-2-2).

- g. Franklin High School/Franklin School District #5 NRSE.** Natural Resource Special Exception (NRSE) for proposed impacts and disturbance of approximately 0.65 acres of wetland, 2.11 acres of wetland buffer, 1.41 acres of wetland setback, and 8.18 acres of woodland to allow for the construction of a building addition, a concession building, parking lot and drive additions, tennis courts, and soccer field at Franklin High School located at 8222 South 51st Street (Tax Key No. 807 9999 001).

Commissioner Serafin moved and Alderman Craig seconded a motion to table the Natural Resource Special Exception for City Planners to re-review the Special Exception in regards to the UDO and what the mitigation will be and putting together a coherent draft or the recommendations of Hilltop mitigation. On voice vote, 1 abstained and 4 voted ‘aye’; motion carried (4-0-2).

- h. Conservation Easements.** Discussion of conservation area boundary markers.

More information to follow. Discussion only, not action taken.

- i. Littering Fines.** Discussion of recommendation to Common Council to increase fines or enforcement for littering from commercial and waste removal trucks.

Commissioner Valdez:

- W. Loomis Road is littered

- Write a recommendation for littering fines
- Make amendment to Municipal Code
- Bring to next meeting

Discussion only, no action taken.

VI. Adjournment.

Chair Wrench moved and Vice Chair Stanley seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 pm. On voice vote, all voted 'aye', motion carried (5-0-2).

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 14, 2025.