

City of Milton-Freewater

Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes

Members: George Gillette, John Mitchell, Danny Sanchez, Ryan Westman & Kate Winters.

Meeting Date/Time: March 17, 2026 / 5:00 pm

Meeting Location: Public Library, Albee Room

OPENING

- a. Co-Chair Kate Winters welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Committee member(s) present: George Gillette, John Mitchell, Danny Sanchez and Kate Winters.

Committee member(s) absent: Ryan Westman and George Gillette were excused.

City staff present: Public Works Assistant/Project Aide Krista Gannon and Interim City Manager Tim Johnson

Citizen(s) present: Brittany Freemantle – representing Milton-Freewater Youth Baseball.

- b. Adoption of Agenda – Ms. Winters asked if the agenda was approved as presented. Public Works Assistant/Project Aide Krista Gannon asked if she could include the current pool admission rates as added Staff Report/Business Items, b. New Business Item No. 5 – Pool Admission Rates.

Ms. Gannon asked the committee if Item No. 4. Staff Report/Business Items, could be switched with agenda Item No. 5, Opportunity for Citizens to Approach Committee for Items Not on This Agenda, since Ms. Freemantle was present on behalf of Milton-Freewater Youth Baseball to address the committee.

The agenda was approved with the requested amendments as outlined by all present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Sanchez moved to approve the minutes from February 3, 2026. Mr. Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion carried 4 yes, 0 no.

3. PRESENTATIONS

N/A

4. OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO APPROACH COMMITTEE

Brittany Freemantle with Milton-Freewater Youth Baseball joined the committee to discuss the upcoming 2026 baseball/softball season.

Discussion ensued about the upcoming season and what will be needed in collaboration with the city pertaining to the sports fields – Little League at Yantis and Rotary Sports Complex.

Ms. Freemantle shared that Youth Baseball had successfully purchased a new scoreboard for the field that would be installed before the season.

5. STAFF REPORT/BUSINESS ITEMS

a. OLD BUSINESS

1. Freewater Park Ribbon Cutting – no date has been set at this time for such event due to weather and scheduling the striping machine for the sports court. Once a date is set, staff will advise.
2. Spring/Summer 2026 Sports Season/Field Use –
Ms. Gannon shared that we have two current formal field use agreements for city facilities and shared with the committee that there is a need to encourage future discussions and/or policy between facility users with the city prior to making any improvements or updates to or on city properties beforehand due to the costs and potential liabilities such could pose upon the city.

b. NEW BUSINESS

1. McRae/Ireland Ball Field Sign Replacement

The school has acquired a new sign for the McRae/Ireland Baseball field since the existing sign has stopped working and wasn't able to be repaired. The city power crew has already disconnected power and removed the old sign. The city is working to procure a structural engineer, as required by warranty of the sign, to design the structure to mount the sign to and once engineered and designed the materials can be purchased and such base be built and then sign installed and power connected. Unfortunately, due to the timeliness of the signs arrival and baseball season this work may not be able to get completed before the high school baseball season this year.

Interim Manager Johnson shared that he has been working to find a structural engineer and get quotes as required to provide such services, however, this work was not planned at the time the budget was put together. He shared that the city will be required to add the sign to its liability insurance once installed and emphasized the need for collaborative working relations between groups and the city from start to finish so projects can be properly budgeted for when possible and projects be coordinated in advance with materials, staffing and professional services as applicable.

2. Tennis Court Update - **see amendment to minutes on page 3** -

Interim Manager Johnson shared that the city has submitted the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Grant in the amount of \$400,000 as well as one to the Sherwood Trust in the amount of \$75,000 and another to the Wildhorse Foundation for the demo and reconstruction of the tennis courts. He shared that the cost is upwards of nearly \$500,000 for such project to be completed. The tennis courts are planned to be replaced in a similar footprint as they are currently. Mr. Sanchez asked if pickleball courts were going to be included. Interim Manager Johnson shared that Oregon high school athletics rules will not allow for the striping of both tennis and pickleball on the courts. Members present agreed that this ruling was disappointing and would like to see future pickleball courts adjacent to or in another location dedicated to pickleball.

3. Pool Update

Interim Manager Johnson shared that the pool was recently inspected by WMS Aquatics out of Ellensburg, Washington who did a site visit and have provided recommendations on necessary repairs to the facility prior to opening this summer. He shared that the estimate and list of such repairs will be presented to the city council at their April meeting. He shared that the council would be meeting

Monday, March 23 for a short business meeting to conduct business pertaining to the hiring of the pool manager and staffing for the summer season, and then adjourn to a work session.

4. Golf Course Update –
Interim Manager Johnson gave an overview of the memo sent to the committee dated February 9, 2026 (attached).
5. Pool Admission Rates
Ms. Gannon provided the current aquatic center rate resolution to the committee – Resolution No. 2348, which went into effect June 13, 2017, for review. No action or recommendations were made on such resolution.

Interim Manager Johnson shared with the members that Mayor Odman will be planning to join the committee at the April meeting to discuss trails and an area group that has developed trails specifically in relation to his speech at the State of the City Address in February. The April meeting will be on April 21 at 5 pm in the Albee Room, and information will follow.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/BUSINESS ITEMS

No new reports or updates.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Winters.

MINUTES APPROVED BY MOTION MADE BY JOHN MITCHELL AND SECONDED BY RYAN WESTMAN – 4/21/26 WITH NOTE/AMENDMENT AS NOTED BELOW.

By: /George Gillette - Parks and Recreation Committee Chair/

NOTE/AMENDMENT TO MINUTES – Correction to 5b2 – Tennis Court Update –

Since the meeting on March 17, 2026, staff were advised that the Oregon State Athletic Association WILL allow for the painting of both tennis and pickleball court lines when the Yantis Park tennis courts are replaced. Ryan Westman obtained such information from Public Works Technician Steven Patten before the meeting on April 21, 2026.