

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY COMMISSION
MEETING
FOR THE CITY OF HAYDEN, KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO**

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Commission Meeting: 4:00 PM
Hayden City Hall Council Chambers, 8930 N. Government Way, Hayden, ID 83835

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM.

ROLL CALL OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

Aundrea Leckie: Absent
Kholt Moore: Present
Helen Paris: Present
Adam Reed: Present
Malea Sampsel: Present

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS

1. CONSENT CALENDAR *All items on the Consent Calendar are Action Items*
Motion to approve the February 18, 2026 meeting minutes. This motion, made by Sampsel and seconded by Moore, Carried.
Aundrea Leckie: Absent
Kholt Moore: Yes
Helen Paris: Yes
Adam Reed: Yes
Malea Sampsel: Yes
Yes: 4, No: 0, Absent: 1
 - A. Approval of February 18, 2026 Parks, Recreation, & Community Forestry Commission Meeting Minutes
2. VISITOR/PUBLIC COMMENTS on Non-Agenda Items (5-minutes maximum)
Bill Brizee introduced himself as the Vice-Chair of the Historic Commission and distributed flyers to the commission. He reported that the Council had approved an award program recognizing buildings that preserve the history of Hayden, and that the flyer included program information. Brizee briefly reviewed the rules and stated that the commission would judge entries in May. He noted that applications could be submitted anonymously and that participation was not related to the National Historic Register. Vice-Chair Paris asked questions regarding the program and application process, which Brizee answered. Commissioner Moore asked a follow-up question to Paris' inquiry, which Brizee also answered. Recreation and Community Events Director Suzanne Cano displayed the application from the City's website for the commission to review.
3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - A. Parks, Recreation, & Community Forestry Commission City code Amendment Discussion (ACTION ITEM)
 - i. Subcommittee Update (ACTION ITEM)
Commissioner Reed reported that he was still working on the draft for the City Code amendment and asked the Clerk if she had dates for the workshop with the other commission chairs. The Clerk explained that she had been occupied with other work

but would provide the commission with new dates, likely during spring break, for a workshop within April or May. Reed noted that the timing would allow him to complete the mock-up so it would be ready for the workshop. Commissioner Moore asked about a mediator for the meeting. Recreation and Community Events Director Suzanne Cano stated that the liaisons from each commission would attend and that Community Development Director Donna Phillips would be the most qualified to lead the meeting. The Clerk said they were also discussing having City Clerk Abbi Sanchez be present.

B. Pickleball Courts (ACTION ITEM)

Recreation and Community Events Director Suzanne Cano asked if the commission had received the email regarding the pickleball lawsuit in Boise, and the commission discussed it. Paris asked if Sampsel had any updates on the pickleball courts, and Sampsel noted that their next step was gathering a survey to be ready for the Dog Days of Summer-Fest Event. Cano mentioned that Kovatch suggested possibly reconfiguring Stoddard Park, moving the parking lot closer to the houses and relocating the pickleball courts to the current parking area. Reed asked about the park being passive and whether it had regulations, and Cano clarified that the donors had only requested part of the area remain passive. Paris asked whether Kovatch's suggestion was just a thought, and Cano said that when he was at their meeting last month, he was just thinking they could maybe reconfigure the park, with the relocation discussion being for later. Paris also asked whether Impact Fees, as referenced by Community Development Director Donna Phillips, could be used to relocate something in the park. Cano clarified that these fees are for new projects, not relocations, and Paris noted that additional funding would be required for such a move. Reed added that he believed Impact Fees were tied to the Master Plan and must be included in it to be used, with no further discussion. The commission briefly discussed relocation of the parking lot.

i. Subcommittee Update (ACTION ITEM)

C. Parks' Signage (ACTION ITEM)

i. Subcommittee Update (ACTION ITEM)

Commissioner Moore stated that he and Vice-Chair Paris met with IT Administrator and Support Technician Michael Drobnock. Moore noted that the meeting was productive and provided useful information. The subcommittee plans to implement gradual adjustments to the website to test how they work with staff and the community. Recreation & Community Events Director Suzanne Cano added that, in the long run, the website updates should make things easier. Paris mentioned that they also discussed the potential use of QR codes in the future.

D. Bike Trail Map (ACTION ITEM)

This agenda item was tabled until next month's meeting because the subcommittee was not present.

i. Subcommittee Update (ACTION ITEM)

4. NEW BUSINESS

A. McIntire Family Park Steering Committee

Vice-Chair Paris and Commissioner Reed mentioned that there would be an Open House the following day in Council Chambers from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. and provided an update on the Steering Committee for McIntire Family Park. Chair Sampsel noted that Hayden Little League had just started and, since participants must live or attend school in Hayden, she expected they would share the information on their Facebook page and offered to reach out to them. Paris noted difficulty sharing the Open House information through the City's website due to a missing link, and IT Administrator and Support Technician Michael Drobnock said he would add the link.

5. REPORTS

A. Parks Update

Public Works Employee Dan Hall provided an update on the Stoddard Park silo roof discussed at the previous meeting and noted that, after the roof was repaired, the stage area around the silo would also need repairs due to erosion affecting the pavers. Vice-Chair Paris asked whether the barn next to the silo was historically protected, and Commissioner

Reed stated that it had been discussed at the previous meeting and the barn was not protected due to prior modifications, while the silo remained in its original state and required careful restoration. Paris asked if the barn could be removed, and Chair Sampsel said it could be removed and rebuilt, noting that the commission had discussed a couple of years ago rebuilding it as a replica, such as an event center that looked like a barn, or maintaining a historic situation. Visitor Bill Brizee stated that designation on the Historic Register did not prevent demolition or alteration but allowed access to federal funding for maintenance. Brizee noted that a previous application for the barn had been denied due to the lack of a complete inventory of historic buildings in the area and stated that the Historic Commission was working to secure funding for a survey to reapply. He added that a more detailed application would be submitted in the future. Hall also reported that the old shop at Stoddard Park was being modified and repaired for use as storage for Recreation and Community Events Director Suzanne Cano's department equipment. Hall mentioned that the parks team was working on the next fiscal year budget and, when it was finalized, they would let the commission know what items they were looking to improve on.

B. Recreation & Community Events Update

Recreation and Community Events Director Suzanne Cano gave an update on the sports programs, including the number of teams in youth soccer and volleyball. Vice-Chair Paris asked whether there was enough field space for the teams and where they could hold practices, and Cano stated that there was sufficient field space and explained where practices could be held. Paris asked about using school fields, and Cano said the department no longer rented school fields and was unsure if they were kept open, so the school district would need to be contacted. Public Works Employee Dan Hall noted that some schools closed their facilities while others did not. Cano mentioned that they could probably rent the fields since they went to a yearly rate with the schools and no longer hourly rate, so it was cheaper. Cano mentioned that the Kite Festival was scheduled for May 9 and that volunteers were needed; Paris asked the time, and Cano provided it. Paris and Commissioners Moore and Reed stated they would attend the Kite Festival. Cano said students in fifth and sixth grade from Hayden Canyon Charter would be helping for Arbor Day on May 13, but adult volunteers were also needed at each center. Paris and Reed said they would volunteer, with Paris noting her husband would accompany her; Chair Sampsel said she would confirm her availability in April. Cano also stated that they were looking for businesses or individuals to manage the Beer Garden at Hayden Days, as the Hayden Senior Center was no longer doing it, and the commission discussed it with Cano.

C. Tress, Parks, & Bike Pedestrian Report

There was nothing to report.

D. Commission Round Table Discussion

Vice-Chair Paris mentioned Rocking R road where there is going to be a park in the future and how it isn't cut through all the way yet. Chair Sampsel said that Hayden Little League was going to put the McIntire Family Park Open House on their Facebook page. Visitor Bill Brizee mentioned, regarding the Bike Trail Map Agenda Item, that his fellow commission member Ransom Storm was working on a walking trail map as well, Vice-Chair Paris asked if it was a historical walking trail and if it was in City Limits and Brizee said yes. and the commission said they could let Commissioner Leckie, who was working on the Bike Trail Map, know.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Isabelle White, Clerk