



CITY OF OAK HILL

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Organizational Meeting

January 15, 2026

5:30 P.M.

Minutes

I. Roll Call

Administrative Assistant Tosha Meyer conducted roll call: Present: Brittany Mason, Janna Taylor, Roger Page, Sarah Boyd, Dru Ann Welch. All members present

II. Nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair

Board members first introduced themselves, providing background information to help inform the nomination process.

Brittany Mason introduced herself as a business owner in Oak Hill who has organized free community events bringing in vendors and approximately 8,000 people. She noted her experience managing children and events.

Janna Taylor shared that she has lived in Oak Hill for six years with a background in contracts and real estate.

Roger Page stated he owns several businesses and properties in Oak Hill and has been in the area for about five years. His professional background includes working as a compliance director for a major commercial construction company and in the oil and gas industry. He also served as a firefighter with the city of Athens, Texas, where he ran their Toys for Tots program and worked with CPS, the child welfare board, and the child fatality review team.

Sarah Boyd indicated she has been a resident of Oak Hill since 2018, is a mother of three, and has organized many events with the local baseball club.

Dru Ann Welch shared her accounting background and experience running various events for both for-profit and non-profit organizations. She volunteers at the museum and serves on the board of directors for Saints and Sinners Cemetery, planning events such as Memorial Day celebrations and helping to establish Veterans Day activities in the city.

Following introductions, Roger Page was nominated for Chair.

Roger Page was nominated for Chair. The motion was seconded and approved.

Dru Welch was then nominated for Vice Chair.

Dru Welch was nominated for Vice Chair. The motion was approved.

III. Discussion and Confirmation of Board Meeting Schedule

The board discussed scheduling their regular meetings. It was noted that Sarah Boyd gets off work at 5:00 PM and would need time to arrive, so a 6:00 PM start time was proposed. Members also discussed which day of the month would work best, noting that the third Thursday conflicts with some members' schedules.

The board agreed by consensus to hold meetings on the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM.

The board also briefly discussed a potential second meeting that had been tentatively scheduled for January 28th. They agreed to leave this meeting on the calendar for now, with the option to cancel depending on how quickly they receive responses to questions raised during today's meeting.

IV. Citizen Comments

Troy Merrick addressed the board regarding youth sports in Oak Hill. He stated he lives near an unknown female and has helped with the Oak Hill Astros baseball team. Merrick emphasized the need to restore pride in Oak Hill athletics, noting that when he was younger, Oak Hill teams were respected by neighboring communities like New Smyrna and Edgewater.

Merrick stressed the importance of teaching fundamentals to young athletes and expressed concern about the current lack of proper coaching. He explained that teaching the "ABCs" of sports is essential before players can progress to more advanced skills. Merrick offered his assistance in coaching volunteers on proper techniques and fundamentals, stating that while the scoreboard results aren't the most important aspect, teaching the fundamentals of sports is critical for youth development.

Chair Page asked Merrick for suggestions on improving coaching, noting that many parents volunteer without coaching backgrounds. Merrick responded that volunteer coaches need to learn the basics of the sports they're coaching to properly teach children, comparing it to how children must learn the alphabet before they can read.

V. Board Member Priorities

Vice Chair Welch presented a detailed list of priorities she had prepared in advance. Her priorities included:

1. Evaluating and updating the city's open space and recreation requirements, noting a discrepancy between the municipal code (which requires 8 acres per 1,000 residents) and the comprehensive plan (which requires 6 acres per 1,000 residents). Based on 2024 estimated population of 2,103 residents, Oak Hill should have 12.61-16.8 acres of recreational open space but currently has only about 9 acres.
2. Reviewing all facilities in each park to identify needed updates and potential grant funding opportunities.
3. Assessing the Powell property facilities to determine how they could better serve as a park for citizens.
4. Reviewing, updating, and establishing realistic fees for park rentals to generate revenue.
5. Planning city events that could monetize parks and help fund maintenance and updates.
6. Looking at ways to bring more youth sports into the city to create a more community-oriented area.

Chair Page suggested including adult sports in these plans as well, which could increase community involvement. The board discussed the need to understand the city's grant writing capabilities, with Janna Taylor noting she has experience managing grants at the state level and could help identify resources.

The board discussed the current parks budget, which appears to be nominal (estimated under \$50,000) and mostly allocated to maintenance, utilities, and basic operations with little flexibility for new initiatives.

Chair Page emphasized learning about the Sunshine Law as a priority to ensure the board operates legally and appropriately. He noted the importance of understanding the process for approvals, determining budget parameters, and establishing how the board will communicate with the city administration.

Sarah Boyd expressed interest in organizing more community events and addressing youth sport's needs. She mentioned the potential of revitalizing Nancy Cummings Park and possibly seeking an Echo Grant for improvements.

Brittany Mason suggested developing a variety of sports options beyond baseball, such as volleyball, to appeal to more children with different interests.

Janna Taylor discussed holding regular community events, even simple ones like movie nights at local parks, to bring residents together. The board also considered fishing tournaments, river cleanups, and bicycle safety events as potential activities.

Several members expressed interest in revitalizing the former church building at Nancy Cummings Park, which was originally intended to be torn down and replaced with a community center.

The board also discussed the potential creation of a Parks and Recreation Facebook page to improve community outreach and gather input, though they noted this would require approval and determining who would manage the page.

The discussion turned to immediate concerns about the Oak Hill Sports Club's inability to field a 16U baseball team for the upcoming season. Sarah Boyd explained that eight Oak Hill youth aged 13 and over need just one more player to form a team, or they would have to join teams in New Smyrna Beach. The board discussed whether they could help facilitate finding another player or potentially organizing a city-sponsored team, though they recognized the legal and insurance requirements that would need to be addressed.

Board members agreed on several action items:

1. Chair Page would contact the city for clarification on Sunshine Law requirements, the approval process for board initiatives, and budget parameters.
2. Janna Taylor would research available grants, especially Echo Grants, and potentially arrange for a presentation from grant administrators.
3. Dru Ann Welch would continue researching zoning and park space requirements.
4. The board would reach out to the Oak Hill Sports Club to discuss collaboration opportunities.

VI. Adjournment

Roger Page moved to adjourn the meeting, Motion to adjourn by Board member Taylor, seconded by Board member Mason. The motion passed.

Note: In accordance with Resolution 2006-17, a three-minute time limit per speaker is enforced. If any individual decides to appeal a decision made during this meeting, a verbatim record of the proceedings will be required as per Florida Statute 166.041(3)(A).

Attest:

<p>X </p>	<p>X </p>
<p>John Barkley City Manager</p>	<p>Roger Page Chair</p>