



CITY OF OAK HILL

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

March 5th, 2026

6:00 P.M.

Call to order

Chair Page called the meeting of the Oak Hill Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order on March 5, 2026.

Roll Call

City Manager John Barkley conducted roll call. Present were Chair Page, Vice Chair Welch, Board Member Boyd, and Board Member Taylor. Board Member Mason was absent and unable to attend.

Approval of the minutes February 5th, 2026

The minutes from the previous meeting were available in the lobby for review.

Motion: Board Member Boyd moved to approve the minutes. Vice Chair Welch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items

Fishing Tournament

Chair Page provided extensive updates on sponsorship efforts for the upcoming fishing tournament. He reported that after initially being \$700 short of the goal needed to cover rods, reels, and tackle boxes for participants, the event had secured sufficient funding through last-minute donors, including a \$250 donation from the American Legion. The tournament was now fully funded to support 100 children, with additional sponsorships allowing expansion beyond that number at \$22 per additional child participant.

Chair Page outlined his ongoing efforts to secure additional sponsors, having contacted local businesses and now expanding outreach to larger establishments including Ford dealerships, Boston Whaler, Waste Pro and other regional companies. Board Member Taylor securing a

\$250 sponsor. The board discussed coordinating sponsorship outreach efforts to avoid duplication while ensuring persistent follow-up with potential donors.

Several operational updates were shared. Dunkin' Donuts donated five dozen donuts for breakfast, though additional breakfast items were still needed. A local veteran-owned barbecue food truck committed to providing hot dogs for 150 children and would also sell barbecue at the event. The board discussed logistics including volunteer coordination with Burns High School students, road closures on River Breeze from 7 AM to 1 PM, and the need for sheriff's department assistance with traffic control.

Board Member Boyd volunteered to create T-shirts for volunteers to ensure proper identification during the event. The city agreed to provide promotional items such as stickers for children's grab bags. Donations were being directed to Southern States Fishing and Hunting with notation for "reel kids" to track tournament-specific contributions, while city-related expenses would require separate fundraising.

Bike Safety Event

Board Member Taylor provided updates on the upcoming bike safety event scheduled for Saturday. She confirmed arrangements with the safety education provider, who would bring helmets for approximately 50 children and conduct safety demonstrations. The event would include hot dogs, water, chips, and literature, with Steam Station donating a bike and participating in the event.

Logistical planning included closing the parking lot gates to create a safe space for children to practice bike riding, with alternative parking available on Nancy Street and grass areas. Board Member Boyd planned to arrive by 9 AM to ensure proper setup before the 9:30 AM start time. The event was expected to run approximately two hours depending on attendance.

Chair Page volunteered to transport bicycles collected from various sources, including six from the sheriff's department, five from Burns school, and one from Steam Station, totaling sixteen bikes available for the event. The board discussed providing tables, chairs, and refreshments, with contingency plans for additional water supplies.

Amnesty Day

City Manager Barkley confirmed Amnesty Day was scheduled for April 11th from 8 AM to 2 PM, following the same format as the previous year with centralized collection at city hall and rotating volunteer coverage from commissioners. The board offered to provide volunteer support as needed.

Monthly Events

The board engaged in extensive discussion about potential future events, with particular focus on reviving Oak Hill's seafood festival. Chair Page shared information about Grant's Seafood Festival, describing it as the longest-running seafood festival in the Southeast that generates sufficient revenue to fund community scholarships and facilities. He suggested this model could potentially fund future community center development in Oak Hill.

Board members recalled Oak Hill's previous seafood festival, which operated successfully until logistical and financial challenges led to its discontinuation. The original event utilized land that later became Mary DeWees Park and Lagoon Mist development, with parking across the street. The board acknowledged that recreating such an event would require significant planning and appropriate venue identification.

Alternative event suggestions included chili cook-offs and barbecue competitions, with discussion of potentially partnering with the Oak Hill Community Trust, which already hosts similar events including a July barbecue cook-off and pie contest. The board considered starting with smaller-scale events to build experience and community engagement.

Significant discussion focused on the status and potential use of city property for events. The conversation covered the need to repair restroom facilities, which require a new water pump in a secured enclosure due to previous theft issues. Board members suggested the property could serve as a venue for farmer's markets, food trucks, and movie nights, with the existing house potentially serving as a concession and storage facility after clearing stored items during Amnesty Day.

City Manager Barkley noted the property's potential as a regional destination, with the city-owned land across Route 1 providing parking and creating a downtown-style district. The board expressed interest in holding their next meeting at the property to better assess its potential for community events.

Citizen Comments

Chair Page reported receiving an email from Tim Morton approximately five weeks prior regarding donated labor for adding dirt to the ball field. Staff member Barkley confirmed the city was working on estimates to comply with purchasing policies, with the recommendation to extend rather than elevate the existing field to avoid drainage issues.

Board Comment & Concerns

Board Member Boyd presented two logo design options for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, incorporating the city's existing color scheme and branding elements. After review and discussion, the board selected the second design option.

Motion: Vice Chair Welch moved to approve the second logo design for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Board Member Taylor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Member Boyd volunteered to coordinate outreach to Burns High School for ongoing volunteer support for future events. Chair Page proposed establishing a coordinator system for future events, with individual board members taking leadership roles for specific activities to ensure proper organization and continuity for annual events.

The board confirmed their next meeting would be held at the city property on Bell Avenue to assess its potential for community events, with City Manager Barkley arranging access and basic meeting accommodations.

Adjournment

Motion: Vice Chair Welch moved to adjourn. Board Member Taylor seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

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:

X

John Barkley
City Manager

X

Roger Page
Chair

