

BOARD OF PARKS COMMISSIONERS
March 2, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Parks Commissioners of the City of Columbus, Nebraska, was convened in open and public session on March 2, 2026, at 12 p.m. in the Columbus Community Building, Community Room, 2500 14 Street, Columbus, Nebraska. Notice of this meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Columbus Telegram on February 25, 2026, with a copy of the proof of publication being on file in the office of the city clerk. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice to the mayor, members of the city council, and members of the Board of Parks Commissioners. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the public.

1. **STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH OPEN MEETINGS ACT.** Chair Brezenski announced that a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in the meeting room. Present were members Jon Brezenski, Brad Hansen, Tina Pelan, Bruce Schmidt, and Lynn Sjuts. Member Gary Puetz was absent and excused. Members Araceli Esquivel, Nick Larson, and Stacey Smith were absent. City staff members included Assistant City Clerk Linda Nickeson, Park and Recreation Director Sydney Mroczek, Park Superintendent Tom Ek, and Park and Recreation Coordinators Alondra Castillo and Jake Novicki.
2. **MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2026, MEETING.** The minutes were approved as presented with a motion by Schmidt and a second by Hansen. Brezenski, Hansen, Pelan, Schmidt, and Sjuts voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Esquivel, Larson, Puetz, and Smith were absent.
3. **REQUEST FROM COLUMBUS HAVOC 18U SOFTBALL TO CAMP OVERNIGHT IN GERRARD PARK, JUNE 4, 5, 6, AND 7, 2026.** Brezenski pointed out past concerns from adjoining residents of the camper parking on the grass. Mroczek confirmed that rope will be put in place to prevent it and shared concerns of alcohol consumption. Discussion was held regarding communication with the group that alcohol is strictly prohibited in the park and that if they choose to disregard the rule the camper will be removed from the property immediately and the group will not be granted permission in the future. A recommendation to approve Columbus Havoc 18U Softball to camp overnight in Gerrard Park was approved with a motion by Hansen and a second by Pelan. Brezenski, Hansen, Pelan, Schmidt, and Sjuts voted "Aye" and none voted "Nay". Esquivel, Larson, Puetz, and Smith were absent.
4. **PARK AND RECREATION DIRECTOR REPORT.** Mroczek reviewed the report and introduced new Park and Recreation Coordinator Jake Novicki. She mentioned that half of the garden beds have been rented for the 2026 season, Quail Run will open March 4th, and an underwater Easter egg hunt is scheduled for April 4th.
5. **ADJOURNMENT.** The meeting adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
: Linda Nickeson