

DRAFT Minutes
Recreation Commission
November 6, 2025

Members present: Chris Woodside, Alex Albers, Laura Lazaraton, Matt Weber, Michael Evans, Paul Palmer

Staff members present: Chris Skidmore – Recreation Director

Others present: Ella Engelhardt and Tyler Evans – High School Student Volunteers

Call to Order:

Mr. Skidmore called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve February 2025 minutes was made by Mr. Woodside and seconded by Ms. Lazaraton. All in favor.

Citizen Participation:

None.

Reports:

- Chairperson—Mr. Skidmore reported that this position is currently not filled and to let him know if you are interested.
- City Council – Mr. Woodside reported that the City is ahead of schedule on scheduled paving jobs for 2025 to improve the quality of our streets. Ms. Lazaraton stated she takes long walks frequently and noticed that the sidewalks on Barney are marked up for improvements. Mr. Woodside stated the City's commitment to adding more sidewalks such as the project currently taking place by the Golf Course. Mr. Woodside explained that the removal of leaves by the Public Works Department is ongoing and complimented the service they provide for residents. Mr. Palmer asked where the leaves are dumped after picking up and Mr. Woodside replied that they are placed in Oak Park and later turned into mulch. Mr. Palmer asked if there was a schedule for leaf pick up and Mr. Woodside responded that there is not.
- Wyoming City Schools – Mr. Weber stated how great it is to have two WHS student-athletes in attendance as they are both leaders in the school. Mr. Weber reported that the fall athletic season was successful and included many highlights including: 57 total athletes who made all-league honors, Boys Soccer made it to the State Final Four, Girls Volleyball finished 2nd in the CHL and earned a victory in the OHSAA tournament, and three Girls Cross Country runners qualified for state. Mr. Woodside reported there is a fall team still playing and that is the football team which plays Valley View on Friday night. Mr. Weber stated that the football team has

won ten consecutive first round playoff games. Mr. Weber explained the excitement around winter sports as bowling, competitive cheer, and basketball are getting started. Mr. Weber shared his vision for the future which includes more collaboration and opportunities for younger athletes such as the Youth Volleyball Night that was held this past fall. Mr. Weber stated the success of that event and how great it was to see all the youth players and families in attendance to help bring an electric atmosphere. Mr. Weber stated that the Champions Center recently celebrated its five-year anniversary. Mr. Tyler Evans asked how the scheduling of the Champions Center will work with many teams seeking space. Mr. Woodside replied that it will require all the coaches working together.

- Administration—Mr. Skidmore reported that during his first four months he has made a great effort to seek out opportunities to collaborate with the Recreation team more via scheduled meeting times with individual staff and as a team. Mr. Skidmore stated that although he has only been here four months, that he has become acclimated to life in Wyoming both as a resident and the Recreation Director in large part to the support of Mr. Herzog and Ms. Leininger. Mr. Skidmore explained the energy and thoughtfulness put into the upcoming issue of the Rec Times. Mr. Skidmore shared updated on the new partnership with STAR Soccer Club and explained this will be for use of the turf for their teams but never in place of our in-house rec teams. Mr. Skidmore also stated that STAR will be putting on free coaches and player clinics before the start of the spring and fall season. Mr. Skidmore shared that he is exploring a partnership with Heartfelt Tidbits where we collaborate on some programming. Mr. Skidmore also shared that we will be partnering up with the Wyoming Library to offer story times at the library and books for summer campers. Mr. Skidmore stated that he is exploring opportunities for new revenue streams and we have started offering youth sports team pictures with a percentage going back to the City. Mr. Tyler Evans stated he thinks that other WHS students may be interested in taking photos. Mr. Skidmore also stated that there are plans to offer youth sports sponsorships for individual teams in 2026.

Business:

- Youth Sports: Mr. Skidmore reported that we had a great fall including increased numbers for Youth Volleyball led by our growing boys' program. Mr. Weber stated that WHS now offers Boys Volleyball and is happy to hear that the youth program is growing. Mr. Skidmore stated that Youth Soccer numbers are also on the rise at the youngest divisions – Pee Wee and Dribblers. Mr. Skidmore shared that enrollment for Youth Basketball is currently at 350 players this season vs. 318 last season. Mr. Skidmore shared that Youth Tennis will return in the spring with the Wyoming Tennis Academy partnership.
- Adult Sports/Recreation & Senior Activities: Mr. Skidmore shared that that Women's Basketball running on Tuesday nights at Oak Gym continues to grow and is starting to attract players from across Cincinnati. Mr. Skidmore explained the new Ping Pong Club that will start this winter in the basement of the Rec Center on Wednesday

nights. This new offering is a response to the requests for ping pong at the Rec Center to take place. Mr. Skidmore reported that the Men's 40+ Basketball League is filled and rosters will be created next week with games starting in early December.

- Community and Special Events: Mr. Skidmore stated that special events are now with Ms. Leininger and Ms. Dengler and no longer overseen by the Recreation Department.
- Facilities, Parks, and Grounds: Mr. Skidmore stated that that Chisholm Park project is in the design phase and he attended a brainstorming session last week. Mr. Skidmore stated that the intention is to create an organic space that is influenced by nature and fits into the natural landscape. Mr. Evans asked if the new equipment will all be ADA compliant and if the ball diamond will be staying. Mr. Skidmore replied that ADA compliance (and shade) are two items that are always on the front of his mind but that this playground (unlike Crescent Park) will not be 100% ADA compliant. With that said, Mr. Skidmore said that the goal is to always make parks as inclusive as possible for everyone. Mr. Skidmore explained the progress of the Turf A project at the Recreation Center. Mr. Skidmore reported that once the 2026 budget is approved, the plan is to start in January 2026 with a re-open date of April 2026. Mr. Skidmore explained there are other areas of improvement being addressed such as improved seating and new fencing. Mr. Evans asked if time was built in should there be bad weather and Mr. Skidmore replied that Motz has told them that April 2026 is a realistic date given it is winter. Mr. Evans asked about the condition of the tennis courts by the High School and if conversations are happening to repair the courts. Mr. Skidmore stated he is aware of the condition of the courts as he met with Mr. Weber this past summer to view their condition. Mr. Weber stated that the courts need repaired.
- Fitness, Programs, and Aquatics: Mr. Skidmore reported on new programs such as the Girls Fitness Class, Adult Dancing classes and the WHS program where students can earn PE credit for taking classes.

Adjourn

Mr. Woodside made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Evans seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Skidmore
Recreation Director