

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
LONGWOOD CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
175 WEST WARREN AVENUE
LONGWOOD, FLORIDA**

**MINUTES
August 4, 2026
6:30 P.M.**

Present:

**Ardel Cheffer, Chair
Judi Coad, Member
Amanda Sackett, Member**

**Aryn Nichols, Member
Chris Capizzi, Leisure Services Director
Donna Alt-Bowes, Recording Secretary**

Absent:

**Larissa Morgan, Vice-Chair
Jennifer Barr, Member
Jason Jose, Member
Ryan Rinaldo, Recreation Manager**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Cheffer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- 2. PUBLIC INPUT.**
 - A. Public Participation.** None.
- 3. ACTION ITEMS**
 - A. Approve Minutes from July 7, 2026 Meeting.**

Member Sackett moved to approve the July 7, 2026, Minutes. Seconded by Member Nichols and carried by a unanimous voice vote with Member Jose, Member Barr and Vice-Chair Morgan absent.

4. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Chair Cheffer had no report.

Member Sackett had no report.

Member Nichols had no report.

Member Coad had no report.

5. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Capizzi provided an update on several ongoing capital improvement and maintenance projects. He advised that the ballfields at Candyland Sports Complex have been renovated, including the complete resodding of the infield on Field 1, improvements to the restroom facilities, drainage enhancements, and repairs to the pickleball and basketball courts. He also reported that new lighted bollards have been received and will be installed in the Historic District, and that the

Sandalwood Park playground is being renovated utilizing retrofit equipment. He advised that the department's proposed FY 2026-2027 budget includes reductions to the Board Promotions budget and the elimination of funding for the Juneteenth Celebration and Dogtoberfest due to anticipated budget constraints. He noted that the proposed budget will be presented to the City Commission for consideration during the September budget hearings.

Mr. Capizzi reported that new trees have been planted throughout the City utilizing Tree Fund dollars and advised that irrigation improvements have been completed to support the new landscaping. He also noted that staff continues to prepare City parks for hurricane season through routine tree inspections and maintenance. He advised that Summer Camp concluded successfully. He reported that preparations are underway for National Night Out. He noted that Winn-Dixie will again provide food and beverages for the event, DJ Dennis will provide entertainment, commissioners will participate in cooking dinner, the annual police vs. fire softball game will take place, and staff is pursuing additional attractions and activities. He also advised that the City is involved with the planning of a 25th Anniversary 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on September 11th in partnership with the Fire Department, Police Department, and VFW. He further advised that staff is working with E.J. Burt to establish a youth basketball clinic at Candyland Sports Complex this fall, pending completion of the required background screening process.

Board Members asked questions regarding hurricane preparedness, maintenance at the dog park and Community Building, replacement of the existing bollards, the City's memorial program, Summer Camp finances, and potential projects utilizing remaining Board Promotions funds.

Discussion ensued regarding improvements to the memorial program, potential Board-funded projects for City parks, and notification of vendors regarding the cancellation of Dogtoberfest.

6. ADJOURN

Member Coad moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Member Sackett and carried by a unanimous voice vote Member Jose, Member Barr and Vice-Chair Morgan absent.

Chair Cheffer adjourned the meeting at 6:54 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: 09-01-2026


Ardel Cheffer, Chair

ATTEST:


Donna Alt-Bowes, Recording Secretary