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KEIZER PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
AGENDA

Tuesday, August 11, 2026, 6:00 PM
Robert L. Simon Council Chambers
930 Chemawa Road NE
Keizer, Oregon

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - a. July 2026**
- 3. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED PERSONS**
- 4. MATCHING GRANTS**
 - a. Application Submitted by Jonathan Skillman for Keizer Rapids Pickleball Complex ~ Total Project Value: \$500**
- 5. PARKS REPORTS**
 - a. Mike Pantalone ~ Country Glen | Willamette Manor**
Clay Rushton ~ Clearlake | Bair
Bob Shackelford ~ Bob Newton | Keizer Little League
Chair Matt Lawyer ~ Ryan J. Hill | Wallace House
All ~ Keizer Rapids Park
- 6. NEW/OLD BUSINESS**
- 7. STAFF REPORT**
- 8. COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT**

9. MEMBER REPORTING TO COUNCIL: BOB SHACKELFORD ON AUGUST 17TH AT 6PM
10. NEXT MEETING: PARKS TOUR ON SEPTEMBER 14TH, STARTING AT CHALMERS JONES PARK
11. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES
KEIZER PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, July 14, 2026
Robert L. Simon Council Chambers
930 Chemawa Road NE
Keizer, Oregon

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** Chair Matt Lawyer called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Attendance was noted as follows:

Present:

Matt Lawyer, Chair
Lisa Cejka, Vice Chair
Tanya Hamilton
Gwen Carr
Michael Pantalone
Clay Rushton
David Loudon
Jill Gust

Youth Liaison Present:

Liam Stitt

Staff Present:

Robert Johnson, Parks Division Manager
Dawn Wilson, Deputy City Recorder
Keare Blaylock, Public Works Director

Council Liaison Present:

Councilor Parsons

Absent:

Bob Shackelford

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. June 2026** Lisa Cejka moved for approval of the June 2026 Minutes. Mike Pantalone seconded. Motion unanimously passed as follows: Cejka, Pantalone, Carr, Rushton, Loudon, Lawyer, and Gust in favor with Shackelford absent and Hamilton abstained.

- 3. APPEARANCE OF INTERESTED PERSONS** Peggy Moore, Keizer, provided an update on the Peggy and Jerry Moore Community Garden, reporting that the growing season was progressing well despite the loss of complimentary compost and donated seeds. She recognized Parks staff for their support and assistance. Ms. Moore inquired about a dedicated funding allocation for the garden.

Ms. Moore recognized Parks Board Member Gwen Carr for making multiple site visits and engaging with gardeners, skaters, and other park users. She also thanked Dawn Wilson, Deputy City Recorder, for assistance with a grant rebate. Parks Division Manager Robert Johnson explained that the proposal was not included in the current budget and noted that the Matching

Grant Fund had been reduced from \$15,000 to \$5,000 annually.

The Board indicated that a dedicated funding request would be more appropriately considered during the next budget cycle and encouraged Ms. Moore to apply for a grant this year if needed. Chair Lawyer offered to explore securing donated bark dust, Ms. Carr offered to assist with the grant application, and Board Member Tanya Hamilton offered to help develop estimated project expenses for a future funding request.

Rhonda Rich, Keizer and regular user of the dog park, raised a concern about the large concrete planters near the pickleball courts and amphitheater, noting that the plantings within them are dead. Parks Division Manager Robert Johnson explained that there was no irrigation infrastructure in that area, making consistent watering logistically difficult. He noted that the planters currently serve a dual purpose as vehicle deterrents to prevent cars from driving onto the path. Mr. Johnson suggested that a volunteer-led planting program, supported by a parks grant to fund plant material, could be a viable approach—ideally in the fall to avoid transplanting in peak summer heat. Ms. Rich expressed interest in exploring that possibility for the following spring.

Clint Holland, Keizer, expressed concern about the spread of English ivy in Keizer parks and its impact on tree health, particularly at Keizer Rapids Park and Palma Ciega Park. Mr. Johnson acknowledged the issue, discussed successful ivy removal efforts at Wallace House Park using late-summer chemical treatment, and noted access challenges in some areas due to poison oak.

The Board discussed ongoing volunteer efforts, the decline in volunteer participation since the COVID-19 pandemic, and opportunities to partner with Keizer Rotary and other volunteers to prioritize ivy removal in areas presenting the greatest public safety risk. Chair Lawyer committed to working with Mr. Holland to coordinate future volunteer efforts.

4. PARKS REPORTS

- a. **Tanya Hamilton ~ Meadows | Hidden Creek** **Tanya Hamilton** reported that **Meadows Park** was well-maintained with excellent grass condition. She noted significant stress cracks and deterioration in the fall protection surface near the spinning play equipment, as well as standing water near the play structure that may indicate a sprinkler issue, and provided photographs for staff. Mr. Johnson acknowledged the park's history of unusual soil and drainage issues and indicated they would investigate. Ms. Hamilton also reported that **Hidden Creek Park** was in excellent condition with no concerns to report.
- Gwen Carr ~ Claggett Creek | Chalmers-Jones** **Gwen Carr** reported that **Chalmers-Jones Park** was active with
- David Loudon ~ Ben Miller |**

Northridge

**Jill Gust ~
Northview | Mike
Whittam**

**Lisa Cejka ~
Palma Ciea |
Sunset**

**All ~ Keizer
Rapids Park**

skateboarders and appeared to be in good condition. At **Claggett Creek Park**, she noted that the first bench from the Dearborn entrance, on the left-hand side, has a broken top board on the backrest consistent with vandalism. Mr. Johnson acknowledged the report and noted that occasional vandalism in that area was not uncommon.

David Loudon reported that **Ben Miller Park** was well-maintained, with the lawn in particularly good condition. He inquired about the status of placing boulders to address a known parking issue. Mr. Johnson indicated they were waiting to review video footage from recently installed cameras before determining the optimal boulder placement. **Northridge Park** remained undeveloped.

Jill Gust reported that **Northview Park** looked good, with children actively using it. Regarding **Mike Whittam Park**, she noted difficulty making contact with anyone about the community garden there, though the garden itself appeared well-tended.

Lisa Cejka reported that **Palma Ciea Park** was well-maintained, with the grass border between the wild area and the lawn recently edged. She noted that fruit on the property—apples, grapes, and berries—was progressing through the season. She confirmed Clint Holland's observation that English ivy was visible in the wild lower portion of the park. She also noted informal after-hours use of the lower wooded area by members of the public. Ms. Cejka reported that **Sunset Park** was in excellent, well-maintained condition and actively used by the community.

Tanya Hamilton reported positive experiences at the Keizer Rapids Park with the pickleball courts, noting that the paddle rotation system was working well, and that regular players were actively helping newcomers understand court etiquette. She noted one downed tree limb had been promptly removed by staff, and inquired about wear on the pickleball nets. Mr. Johnson commented that they were aware and would inspect the nets, acknowledging that heavy use was contributing to wear along the top edges.

Chair Lawyer reported that Keizer Rotary volunteers recently completed tree trimming at the arboretum at **Keizer Rapids Park**. He also noted an informal trail to the river, increased parking congestion near the disc golf area, and deteriorating asphalt along portions of the park path. Mr. Johnson commented that he would monitor the parking situation and investigate the reported trail and path maintenance concerns.

Liam Stitt shared that he brought a guest to **Keizer Rapids Park** who found it impressive, noting it as an example of successful community outreach to new visitors.

5. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

a. Parks Tour (a List of Previously Toured Parks is attached) ~ Choose the 2026 Parks to Visit

The Board discussed the selection of parks for the 2026 annual parks tour. Chair Lawyer opened by suggesting that Meadows Park and Carlson Skate Park be considered, noting that neither had been visited since 2018 and 2017, respectively, and that the skate park had been a topic of recent positive discussion. He noted Meadows Park would be particularly relevant given it represents the first full playground replacement under the parks fee program, approximately eight to ten years ago.

Additional suggestions from Board members included Country Glen Park, which is scheduled for a playground replacement in the current budget year; Bob Newton Park, which Parks staff highlighted had just completed a major overhaul and was described as a notable success; and PFC Ryan J. Hill Park. Ms. Hamilton raised the question of whether visiting Northridge Park—an undeveloped two-parcel site with limited and contested access—would yield sufficient value.

It was noted that in past tours, the Board has viewed the site from access points rather than entering the terrain itself, and that drone footage could provide a more informative perspective. The Board agreed to defer any decision on Northridge Park pending drone reconnaissance and suggested that any visit involving the access easements adjacent to private residences would require advance notice to the neighboring homeowners, consistent with prior practice.

The Board reached consensus on the following tour itinerary scheduled for September 14, 2026:

1. **Chalmers-Jones / Carlson Skate Park** (starting point with dinner)
2. **Meadows Park** (first full playground replacement)
3. **Country Glen Park** (brief stop to observe current conditions prior to replacement)
4. **Bob Newton Park** (to view the recently completed renovation)
5. **PFC Ryan J. Hill Park** (view the Gold Star Family Monument)

The board members agreed to keep stops efficient, with a recommended time limit at each location. It was noted that logistics for food delivery would be simplest at Chalmers-Jones given its facilities.

6. STAFF REPORT

Parks Division Manager Robert Johnson shared the following updates:

The Bob Newton Park renovation was complete. Mr. Johnson encouraged members to visit it prior to the parks tour.

The Summer Concert Series at Keizer Rapids Park amphitheater begins

July 18th and runs through August 29th. The series was organized by Valor Mentoring, and additional information was available on their website.

The Splash Fountain was open Wednesday through Sunday, noon to 7:00 PM, on days forecasted over 75 degrees. The new drinking fountain had been installed at Keizer Rapids Park near the boat ramp, featuring a water bottle filler, a dog-level fountain, and a standard height fountain, in response to frequent requests from paddlers seeking water refill points.

Regarding the pickleball court shade structures, Mr. Johnson received an inquiry about adding small seasonal shade structures to the pickleball court fencing at Keizer Rapids Park to address overcrowding in the waiting areas. Mr. Johnson indicated that a grant application through the parks program may be an appropriate mechanism and encouraged interested parties to come before the Board.

7. COUNCIL

LIAISON REPORT

Council Liaison Parsons provided the following updates:

The McNary High School's Air Force ROTC Program, which previously assisted with graffiti abatement was discontinued, so there would be a volunteer painting event was scheduled for Friday, July 18th at 4:00 PM, meeting at McNary. Volunteers were welcome, and gloves were recommended. Ben Crosby from the Police Department would coordinate supplies and locations.

A volunteer work party was scheduled for Wednesday, July 15th, at 6:00 PM at the Little League fields to prepare for an upcoming state tournament. Tasks include weed whacking, bleacher board replacement, and general cleanup.

The National Night Out was scheduled for August 4th. Residents may register with the Police Department to participate.

Council Liaison Parsons also inquired about renaming the Keizer Little League complex, noting that Keizer Little League had requested their organizational name be removed from the park name, as the organization no longer managed the facility but only plays there. Several naming concepts were discussed, including "Keizer Sports Complex East/West," a baseball or ballpark-themed name, and a generic complex name that could accommodate future title sponsorships.

Mayor Cathy Clark, who was present in the audience, was invited to address the item and provided clarification that "Keizer Community Fields" was the name of the nonprofit organization, not the facility, and that the facility naming was what was under consideration. She confirmed that one field had received a sponsor name (Loren's Field) and that a second sponsorship was being sought, along with a title sponsor for the overall complex. She noted

that a plaque at the concession stand honored the founding Little League volunteers and committed to ensuring that legacy recognition was updated and maintained regardless of the facility's new name.

Public Works Director Keare Blaylock clarified that the proposed naming convention would establish a generic name for the sports complex, such as East and West, while allowing individual sponsorship naming opportunities for each side. She noted that this approach was common practice and emphasized that the Board could provide its own input on the naming convention.

The Board discussed various naming options, with some members expressing concern about the navigational confusion of "East/West" designations and others noting the sentimental significance of the Little League name. No formal action was taken; the item would be brought forward to City Council for decision.

Councilor Parsons noted that the Elks Lodge was hosting a Shakespeare in the Park performance Thursday through Saturday, July 16–18, at 7:00 PM, free of charge, on their back patio.

Chair Lawyer provided an update on the Parks Master Plan recommendation submitted to the City Council at the previous meeting. He reported that the Council received the recommendation but raised questions requiring clarification, and that work was ongoing with Parks staff and Public Works Director Keare Blaylock to refine the scope. The recommendation had neither been accepted nor rejected at this time. Chair Lawyer also noted that he had informally suggested adding Board Member David Loudon to the Master Plan Task Force, citing his extensive tenure and institutional knowledge of the parks system.

Mayor Clark addressed the Board regarding an interest expressed by City Council, including Council President Starr, in scheduling a Joint City Council Work Session with the Parks Recreation and Advisory Board to have a more substantive, in-depth conversation about upcoming projects, long-range planning, maintenance needs, and the Master Plan process—beyond what was possible during parks tour stops. The Board discussed the logistics given that the September regular meeting falls on a holiday-shifted schedule.

Lisa Cejka moved to suspend the rules to consider an item that's not on tonight's agenda. Seconded by Jill Gust. The motion passed unanimously as follows: Cejka, Hamilton, Pantalone, Carr, Rushton, Loudon, Lawyer, and Gust in favor and Shackelford absent.

Mike Pantalone move to schedule a Work Session with the City Council prior to the Parks Tour. Seconded by Lisa Cejka. The motion passed unanimously as follows: Cejka, Hamilton, Pantalone, Carr, Rushton, Loudon, Lawyer, and

Gust in favor and Shackelford absent.

Chair Lawyer stated that the Board should have a robust discussion regarding the conversation that Mayor Clark and Councilor Parsons brought forward.

The proposed date of September 1, 2026, was discussed as the target, pending City Council approval. Mayor Clark indicated she would coordinate with the City Recorder to bring the item to agenda input at the next Council meeting.

Chair Lawyer reiterated his hesitation about renaming the Little League fields, expressing a desire to preserve the facility's long-standing identity while recognizing that there was an onsite memorial and acknowledging that the City Council would make the final decision.

**8. MEMBER
REPORTING TO
COUNCIL: Jill
Gust on July 20th
- 6pm**

This item was not mentioned.

**9. NEXT MEETING:
August 11th**

It was noted that the next regular meeting of the Keizer Parks and Recreation Advisory Board would be August 11, 2026.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at: 7:40 p.m.

Minutes approved: _____

Wilson, Dawn

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 4:43 PM
To: Johnson, Robert; Bremer-Kowalski, Lana; Wilson, Dawn
Subject: Online Form Submittal: Parks Improvement Matching Grant Program Application

CAUTION: This email originated from **Outside Your Organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders. Please **contact Information Technology for assistance**.**

Parks Improvement Matching Grant Program Application

Name of Organization or Individual	Keizer Rapids Pickleball Club(Jonathan Skillman and John Robbins)
Address	
Phone	
Email	
Project Director	Jonathan Skillman
Address	
Phone	
Project Director Email	
Proposed Park Site	Keizer Rapids Pickleball complex
Is the project identified in the current Parks Master Plan?	Yes
Estimated project start date	8/1/2026
Estimated project completion date	8/4/2026
Budget (Donations)	
Parks Board Matching Grant - Total Project Value	\$500

Parks Board Matching Grant Donation	\$500
Private Cash / Material Donations	Labor and up to \$500
Corporate Sponsorship	0
Labor (estimated value)	\$200
Will a recognition sign be required?	No
Type of Project (check all that apply)	New park Features
Project Description	Adding poles to hand shade sails at the Keizer Rapids pickleball courts. Upwards of 50 people come to play pickleball at Keizer rapids every morning and there is currently zero shade cover for those waiting to play. This minor improvement will be a major quality of life upgrade for the many people(mostly seniors) that frequent our park.
Signature (electronic signature accepted)	Jonathan Skillman
Additional information	IMG_7086.png

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