



Allentown

435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pa. 18101

Minutes - Final

Recreation Board

Thursday, October 2, 2025

8:00 AM

Bucky Boyle Recreation Building

10 Pump Place

Roll Call

Board Members & City Administration:

<u>x</u> Nancy Witt - Chair	Zaleeae Sierra
<u>x</u> Julie Ambrose-Secretary	Mike Comick
Ana Tiburcio	x Josh Novak
<u>x</u> Ray Nunez	x Dave Snyder
<u>x</u> Rebecca Kiss	VACANT
City Council	x William Rhoades
Mike Hanlon (City Clerk)	___ Dave Edinger
___ Mayor	

Parks and Recreation Staff in Attendance:

Chris Hendricks, Brynne Heffner-Bair, Priscilla Reyes (online), Lucinda Wright

Minutes

September 4, 2025, Minutes Approval

*Dave Snyder made the motion, William Rhoades seconded. All approved. **Motion passed.***

Attachments: [BOR Sept 4 2025 Minutes](#)

Communications

Nancy thanked the staff for all work over the summer - many activities and parks improvements.

P&R Reports

Various Project Updates

Brynne Heffner-Bair - Trout creek work started yesterday. Dixon St bridge opened - lots of people using it including the Human Society volunteers. Big impact! Jordan Mini-pitch will be added as soon as permits approved; donated by US Soccer; will be installed in Spring. **Master Plan 30 day review** period will start very soon - awaiting revisions from team meeting last week. Will be posted on MyRec and City website. Please provide feedback. Rose Garden Pavilion #1 will be installed next week, completing that project. Tree Inventory is underway - 2400 in the first week! Tree planting will be happening soon via a grant. City will notify property owners if there are problem trees that need to be addressed.

Nancy asked about residents who are pushing for a south Allentown skate park. At the moment there are no plans within Parks & Recreation to build that, but community input can drive projects.

Recreation Updates

Chris Hendricks - wrapping up movies and 3 more Monday Funday. Halloween movie will be at Arts Park. Fishing in the Park attracted over 200 people; medical helicopter landed. Very successful. Soccer skills and drills had 75 kids on Saturday; 200 are registered for the Friday Night program over the next few weeks at Jordan Park. Talking to Special Olympics about a potential World Cup type of festival in November. Basketball going well - skills & drills at ESYC; middle/high school at WAHS. Winter volleyball registration open - starting sooner due to planned gym renovations at Trexler in the winter. Rec Specialist position is open, and they are currently interviewing. Kyle was promoted to one of those roles, the second remains. Dept is evaluating growth opportunities in partnership with other departments.

Special Events Updates

Lucinda Wright - Discussion of memorials for Ed Stinner. Department is recognizing it and supporting youth and staff who worked with him.

Priscilla Reyes: **Walking Halloween Parade - looking for candy sponsors, participants and volunteers.** Email Lucinda for any volunteers and sponsors. DJ, drum line, face painting, etc. is all set

up - lots of fun planned for the kids. Lights in the Parkway preview - November 20 from 6-8pm. Preview and offer feedback. Early bird pricing will be available. 7 volunteer groups are signed up. Planning Walking Mondays plus the Tuesday, January 6 (last day of lights). Will be celebrating many cultural holidays in addition to traditional Christmas.

Send any marketing to Nancy Wilt, Pete Schweyer sends an eblast every week and will include it in her communications.

Director/Deputy Director Updates

N/A

Old Business

Nancy thanked Becky for speaking at City Council about the renaming of Valania Park and acknowledged that it was partly contentious meeting, and regretfully Becky was in that situation.

There was discussion around how to improve communications between the board and the city.

Lucinda suggested that the commission put questions in writing.

In the case of Valania Park, the commission did put it in writing and sent it to Mandy Tolino, Mike Hanlon, the three City Council Reps on the Board of Recreation and Mayor Tuerk. Nobody responded.

Board members expressed frustration around the board's value due to the lack of response from the city. Numerous examples were shared that revealed lapses in the city following its own processes (for example permitting for murals) that were not appropriately including Parks and Recreation. Lucinda reports that the city is working to follow its own processes.

Dedications of parks - the board members pointed out that the fact that a park was renamed without input from the parks department (as was reported to the board in September) seems incongruent. The board asks whether the city followed its own process with the renaming and dedication or not.

We continued to discuss signage for Bosket Park. Lucinda shared that she and Mandy met to discuss and that they are gathering feedback from various committee members. She shared that the final concept will be provided to the board for review prior to final approval.

Nancy offered the suggestion of adding a qr code to the sign for people to learn more about any one particular topic listed on the signage.

There was talk about the possibility of scheduling a secondary meeting to discuss concerns (in general) directly with the administration. Nancy will send out an email to the full board, but it was suggested that we send a specific invite to the administration for the November meeting.

Dave Snyder asked about the island on Wyoming Street. He shared that trees and lights were damaged when hit by a car. And now there are just cones over the live wires where the lights used to be. He wanted to know what would be done there and who is in charge of maintaining that area. It was stated that Public Works is typically in charge.

Dave also asked about tree inventory. Bryne shared that they are inventorying 15,000 trees. And that it will be part of the master plan which will allow for public feedback.

Nancy shared that Rep. Schweyer took Ruffian Tittman and Mandy Tolino out on his boat on the Lehigh River to share with them concerns about the erosion of Eve's Island and the subsequent silt that impacts the depth of the river. And also the silt that makes Kimmet's Lock impossible for boats other than flat bottom boats/Kayaks/Canoes, etc to launch. Limiting access to the river above the dam.

New Business

N/A

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 Becki and Bill Rhoads made motion