



NORTH BRANCH —Minnesota—

Charles Klopp
Chair

Bob Bernier
Commissioner

Farfum Ladroma
Commissioner

Lynn Wilson
Commissioner

Wendy Chelberg
Commissioner

**PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE
COMMISSION
REGULAR AGENDA
MONDAY, JULY 7, 2025 @ 7:00 PM
CITY HALL, 6408 ELM STREET, NORTH
BRANCH, MN 55056**

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH IN THE COUNTY OF CHISAGO AND IN THE STATE OF MINNESOTA

REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 7, 2025

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The North Branch Parks, Trails and Open Space Commission met in REGULAR and Chair Charles Klopp called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Charles Klopp led the pedge of allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Commissioner Charles Klopp, Commissioner Bob Bernier, Commissioner Farfum Ladroma, Commissioner Wendy Chelberg, Commissioner Lynn Wilson

Absent:

Remote:

Others Present:

Notes:

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

5. **AGENDA APPROVAL**

a. Approve Agenda

ACTION

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Bob Bernier

SECONDER: Wendy Chelberg

AYES: Charles Klopp, Bob Bernier, Farfum Ladroma, Wendy Chelberg, Lynn Wilson

ABSENT:

NOTES:

6. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Apporval of June 2, 2025 Minutes

ACTION

RESULT: Passed

MOVER: Farfum Ladroma

SECONDER: Lynn Wilson

AYES: Charles Klopp, Bob Bernier, Farfum Ladroma, Wendy Chelberg, Lynn Wilson

ABSENT:

NOTES:

7. REPORTS

a. Importance of Playground Accessibility Presentation

INFO

Chelsea Knutson presented on the Importance of Accessibility at City Parks. Chelsea shared her personal experience with muscular dystrophy and the challenges she faced with traditional playground equipment. She discussed various accessibility tools and examples of inclusive playgrounds, such as rubberized flooring, ramps, accessible swings, and communication boards. Chelsea highlighted the benefits of inclusive playgrounds, including safety, community inclusion, and learning opportunities for children. There were some questions about whether there are any designated grants that are available for playground improvements. Chelsea pointed out that the City of Hugo's website could be a great resource for information regarding funding and costs.

b. Comprehensive Plan Update

INFO

Chair Charles Kopp introduced the Comprehensive plan update and mentioned the upcoming open house. City Administrator Matthew Hill provided a sneak peek of the steering committee's presentation, outlining the goals and future calendar events. Feedback from the first community open house is shared, including requests for restroom hours, warming house availability, and additional amenities like walking trails and exercise stations.

c. Park Fund Balances

INFO

Community Development Director Nate Sondrol provided updates on park fund balances, including the Park Dedication Fund, Adjustment Balance, and Park Improvement Fund.

d. Project Updates

INFO

Community Development Director Nate Sondrol provided updates on various projects such as the completion of improvements at Northwest Park and the submission of documents for DNR reimbursement. There was a discussion about the accessibility of playgrounds and the potential for future improvements based on the comprehensive plan. There was also mention of updating the sign in Central Park, which is currently on City property. Commissioner Charles Klopp and other commissioners discussed the importance of having a playground in new apartment developments and what the potential for codifying playground requirements in new developments.

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. NEXT MEETING - August 4, 2025 - 7PM

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:42PM

RESULT: Passed
MOVER: Bob Bernier
SECONDER: Farfum Ladroma
AYES: Charles Klopp, Bob Bernier, Farfum Ladroma, Wendy Chelberg, Lynn Wilson
ABSENT:
NOTES: