



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, MARCH 2, 2026 @ 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, March 2, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Charles Klopp called the Parks, Trails, and Open Space Meeting to order at 7 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Charlie Klopp led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

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

Absent:

Remote:

Others Present: Mayor Kevin Schieber

Notes:

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Provides an opportunity for the public to address the Council on items that are not on the Agenda. Please raise your hand to be recognized. Please state your name and address for the record. This section is for the express purpose of addressing concerns of City services and operations. It shall not be used to clarify individual's views for political purposes.

5. AGENDA APPROVAL

a. Approve Agenda

RESULT: Passed

ACTION

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

6. CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine and/or non-controversial and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a Councilmember or citizen so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the Agenda.

a. Approval of February 2, 2026 PTOS Commission minutes ACTION

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

7. REPORTS

a. Park Dedication Fund INFO

Community Development Director Nate Sondrol gave a Park Dedication Fund update:

Below are the fund balances as of 1/26/26

Fund	Balance
Park Dedication Fund (486) (Outstanding state grant reimbursements - CSAH 30 Trail)	\$289,812.56
Park Improvement Fund (\$20,000 - ECRAC Summer Concerts)	\$124,223.44
Community Center Fund	\$184,806.19

b. Project Updates INFO

Community Development Director Nate Sondrol gave a brief project update. The CIP (Capital Improvement Program) will be brought to the April Meeting.

c. Charitable gambling proceeds for park and trail additions and maintenance funding INFO

Community Development Director Nate Sondrol presented the charitable gambling proceeds for park and trail additions and maintenance funding. The City Council has been investigating revenue opportunities to enhance public service while being budget neutral for the residents. One opportunity that has been implemented in many communities throughout the State is utilizing the ability of collecting 10% of the charitable gambling net income derived from local pull tabs. The City adopted an ordinance on February 11, 2026, to assist in the long-term sustainability and enhancement of our city's public green spaces and recreational infrastructure. It establishes a necessary and dedicated funding mechanism by collecting 10% of the charitable gambling net income derived from local pull tabs.

This new revenue stream would be specifically earmarked to fund the following:

- Additions and Expansion: New development and expansion of parks and trails within the city.
- Maintenance: Essential ongoing maintenance and necessary repairs to our existing parks and trails network.

Ordinance 407-26 provides a stable, local funding solution that directly links a community-generated revenue source to a highly valued community asset. By dedicating a portion of charitable gambling Income, the City Council can ensure that our parks and trails remain accessible, well-maintained, and continuously improved for the benefit of all residents.

Commissioner Bernier questioned what percentage of charitable gambling proceeds the charitable gambling organizations get to keep. Mayor Schieber wasn't sure about the percentage, but he did say that the State takes somewhere around 30% of the gross, whereas the City will only be at 10%. The communities that are doing this currently around us are Wyoming, Forest Lake, and Chisago. Mayor Schieber said that it really comes down to lack of money, and the main driver is the safety of our trails, replacing the baseball field, and lighting for the Parks for the Fall. Commissioner Wilson asked if the City has an estimate of what this will bring in yearly. City Administrator Matthew Hill answered that it's really dependent on their sales and how they operate. The four organizations that are doing charitable gambling in the City of North Branch are the American Legion, the Firefighters Relief Association, the Hockey Association, and Chops. Commissioner Wilson asked if the City Council had talked with any of these organizations and asked what their responses were. City Administrator Matthew Hill responded that the organizations have their concerns, and that the City is communicating with them to figure out what the concerns are. Mayor Schieber said that we can continue to shape this through the PTOS, if they feel that they want to create a committee to determine what exactly the revenue should be used for. This will not go into effect until July 1st of this year.

d. Comprehensive Plan Update

INFO

City Administrator Matthew Hill gave a Comprehensive Plan Update. A couple of things that we need to add are regarding connectivity; trails need to connect to new developments, parks, and neighborhoods. We are also looking at particular priorities. Matthew mentioned that there was a good conversation about trends. Do the trends need to be updated? Adult league popularity has decreased, as has soccer. Pickleball has increased in popularity, just making sure that we're putting ourselves in a good position going forward. Accessibility was discussed, making sure that we have some parks that are fully accessible for everyone. There was also some discussion if the City is in need of having a full-time Parks and Recreation Director to lead the development and maintenance of the parks, trails, and ice rinks. There will be another meeting on March 18th, 6 PM, to further discuss the Comprehensive Plan.

8. NEXT MEETING - Monday April 6, 2026 - 7PM

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Parks, Trails and Open Space Commission meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

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