

**DOUGLAS COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 2025, PUBLIC MEETING
100 THIRD STREET, CASTLE ROCK, CO 80104**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

a. Roll Call

PRESENT

Amanda Budimlya
Collin Cacchione
Sean Duffy, Co-Chair
Lynn Moffett
Larry Ziegler

STAFF

Nick Giaque, CPRP, Parks Programs Manager
Steve Shoultz, CPRE, Assistant Director, PT&BG
Arielle Denis, Assistant County Attorney
Megan Grandsard, Staff Liaison
Morgan Morehart, CPRP, Parks Operations Manager

b. Approval of the Agenda

- i. Sean Duffy asked for a motion to approve the July 9, 2025, Public Meeting Agenda.

MOVER: Lynn Moffett

SECONDER: Larry Ziegler

RESULT: APPROVED

AYES: Amanda Budimlya, Collin Cacchione

NAYS: None

c. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

The approval of the meeting minutes from the last meeting was deferred at this time

2. Citizen Comment

Only general comments will be accepted at this time. Comments related to specific topics will be accepted when those topics are discussed.

No citizen comments.

3. Other Business/Discussion

a. Election of Officers

An immediate vacancy for the office of Chair was announced due to the resignation of Luke Niforatos, who relocated to the East Coast and exceeded the residency requirement.

Lynn nominated Amanda for the office of Chair. The nomination was seconded by Larry. Nominations were closed.

Discussion highlighted Amanda's preparedness, insightful questions, collaborative approach, and her commitment to completing tasks. Amanda expressed gratitude for the nomination, acknowledging her lack of prior chair experience but emphasizing her goal to foster collaboration and ensure all voices are heard in recommendations to the commissioners.

Amanda was elected as the new Chair by a unanimous vote.

b. New Board Member Recommendations for Board of County Commissioners

The board reviewed current vacancies, noting one open seat in District 3 and two in District 1. Commissioner Teal confirmed there were no active applications and encouraged the board to identify individuals with a strong interest in parks and community development.

Board members discussed outreach strategies, including engaging with churches, youth sports organizations, and community groups such as mountain biking and pickleball clubs.

One potential candidate highlighted was a Sterling Ranch Metro District board member known for their involvement in pickleball and strong rapport with county commissioners. Kristy Thomas from the Parker Hawks organization was identified as strong a prospect, with particular emphasis on Kristy's organizational skills, balanced perspective, and collaborative nature.

It was suggested that the county's communications team issue a public call for applications—such as a post on Nextdoor—to broaden outreach and attract a diverse pool of applicants.

c. Annual Board Report

Staff presented a working draft of the Parks Advisory Board's annual report, which is required each year and submitted to the Board of County Commissioners.

Staff emphasized that the report is the board's document and can be revised to reflect the board's voice and priorities. While some members suggested including group scores for project evaluations, staff clarified that such data is already provided to commissioners in detailed review packets.

For the narrative section, the board agreed that members would submit individual comments to staff. Staff will consolidate these into a draft statement for the Chair and board to review and finalize at the next meeting, avoiding the need for an additional work session.

d. Parks, Trails, Building Grounds, and Rueter-Hess Updates

Macanta Regional Park Project

The Board of County Commissioners approved full funding for the Macanta Regional Park project, allocating approximately \$3.8 million from open space funds. These funds will support acquisitions and trail development. Design work is currently underway, with construction anticipated to begin in early 2026 and completion expected by year-end. Site visits will be offered to board members.

Cherokee Ranch and Castle

An allocation of \$500,000 from sales tax revenue has been approved for historic preservation and open space efforts at Cherokee Ranch and Castle. The funding will support site assessments and maintenance projects.

Equipment Update

Battery-powered landscaping equipment has been in use since June and will continue through early September. Staff are tracking any use of gas-powered equipment to comply with state reporting requirements.

Challenger Fields

The synthetic turf replacement on Field 1 is complete and in use. Field 2 is on track for completion by August 1, with a firm deadline of August 8 to accommodate the Parker Hawks' "Friday Night Lights" event. Bleacher upgrades are expected in the coming weeks.

Highland Heritage Ball Fields

Two previously grassed-over ball fields at Island Heritage will be restored to address the shortage of available fields. These fields will be available for rental without displacing existing soccer programming.

Zebulon Project Update

The Zebulon project has undergone several design iterations, including concepts for soccer fields, pickleball courts, baseball fields, and an indoor ice center.

A suggestion was made to include brief updates on core initiatives like Zebulon at each meeting to improve transparency and reduce speculation.

4. Adjournment

Amanda Budimlya asked for a motion to adjourn the July 9, 2025, Parks Advisory Board Public Meeting.

MOVER: Sean Duffy

SECONDER: Lynn Moffett

RESULT: Approved

AYES: Collin Cacchione, Larry Zeigler

NAYS: None

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.