



**City of Pass Christian Park Committee  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
February 10, 2026**

**Committee Members Present:** Chairman Thomas J. Phares, Vice Chair Patty DeMetz, Meg Retersdorf, Sandra Lobrano, Chantel Normand

**Staff Members Present:**

Melodie Hayes, City Planner, Brad Manus, Beautification Director/City Arborist and Bret Bentz, Recreation director

**Audience Present:** Hunter Dawkins, Butch Tillson, Susie Tillson, Jason Lykinn, Kein Hoehner, Kathleen Johnson, Maria deLaBarre, Toni Strickland, Sherry Hough, Barb Herbaugh, Mark Dehmke, Peggy DeMetzLane Hobson, Jim Hobson

**1. Call To Order**

Board Chairman Thomas Phares called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**3. Determination of Quorum**

A quorum was determined with the above-mentioned board members present

**5. Discussion**

**a. Discuss questions raised by City Attorney.**

This is tabled until future meeting date for when the City of Pass Christian City Attorney, Ji Simpson, is able to attend.

**b. Begin to determine needs Trinity Dog Park that need to be addressed**

**-Motion to add Trinity Dog Park under War Memorial Park Commission**

**-Sprinkler System**

**-Grass**

Chairman Phares indicated to the audience that the Park Committee meeting is a new implementation and this meeting was designed as a fact-finding meeting with future meetings to follow agendas with approval of agendas and minutes.

Discussion included sprinkler system maintenance, city schedule of maintenance needs, and possible money allocation that could be used for future maintenance of the park. A suggestion was made to install artificial turf in smaller sections around the drinking fountains and any other future preventative maintenance needs that could be utilized.

**c. Begin to determine needs for Church Avenue Park that need to be addressed**

This park looks good in overall shape, but it will need to have trees trimmed soon. City Arborist and Beautification Director Brad Manus explained the schedule to the committee members along with seasonal timelines for tree pruning.

**d. Begin to determine needs for the Ricky Levy Park that needs to be addressed**

Committee members noted there needs to be some pest control and flagpole maintenance that needs to be done. City Arborist and Beautification Director Brad Manus made a note of the request and noted the city schedule presented to the Park Committee members.

A suggestion was made to paint the flagpole and any other repair work needed.

**e. Begin to determine needs for Henderson Avenue Park that needs to be addressed**

The Park committee members inquired about when drinking fountain will be turned back on. Brad Manus stated that they are turned off during the colder winter months and will be turned back on as the weather moves into the spring season.

The park is owned and regulated by the state and therefore there are city limitations for fencing or improvements that can be made. This is direct compliance with regulations regarding flood elevations and FEMA requirements. The city is responsible for maintenance and will work on the electrical outlets in need of repair and referred to the tree trimming schedule.

**f. Begin to determine needs for Fleitas Avenue Sportsplex that need to be addressed**

City Recreation Director Bret Bentz gave a report or "wish list" items being worked on to make the complex more appealing such as bring regulation fields to the area, replacement of bleachers in areas, possibility of bleachers installed by the football field. He also noted the pickleball and tennis court areas are already on the schedule for improvement but also could benefit from grants, fundraising or private funding.

The bathrooms at the complex have recently been vandalized and the city is working diligently to address and repair.

**g. Begin to determine needs of War Memorial Park that needs to be addressed**

**-General maintenance needs**

**-Toddler Playground**

**-Market in the Pass**

**- Who is in charge?**

**-Are they paying the city?**

**-Are they paying sales tax?**

**-Discussion of damage being done on park grounds**

Chairman Phares opened a public comment section for this discussion item.

Mark Dehmke came to the podium and spoke regarding the discussion item and noted leaves, sprinklers to be repaired and general maintenance questions.

A suggestion was made that families, garden clubs, etc., could help with simple maintenance of the park such as re-stocking dog feces bags, fence painting and garden planting.

City Arborist and Beautification Director Brad Manus indicated the city is welcome to volunteer and sch work would need to be organized and presented to the city. City lawnmowers are not generally mulching type of mowers and currently, they are rented and are quite expensive to purchase. The city is not purchasing mulching mowers at the present and this would need to be included in a budget year and does not have much usage throughout the year, so it is more cost effective to rent on a need be basis.

The Park Committee discussed the idea of a toddler playground, and it is a welcomed idea. Private funding will need to be explored for play equipment and to work with the Board of Aldermen once the proposal is more solidified.

The use of the park is for the public as it is a public park and specialty usage should be with reservations; however, it is impossible to implement and enforce exact regulations and enforce against people that are not City residents. Nonresidence usage fees would need to be included in a revised ordinance and a defining public park usage fees.

The discussion regarding the Market in the Pass included Chairman Phares inviting public to the podium to speak regarding the matter.

Sherry Hough, Director of the Market in the Pass, came to the podium and spoke regarding the questions presented for discussion. She noted this has been established since 2006 and there is current documentation at the city offices that includes all information necessary to run the market and this documentation is available for anyone to view.

She also explained the supervisory roles and who is in charge, no city fees are generally paid, a current privilege/business license is secured to the city with annual renewals. The market operates 52 days a year and is designated as a certified farmers' market and advertises on city platforms as well as their own platform means. There is sales tax revenue that is collected regularly and sent to the state and the state then returns the money to the City of Pass Christian during the calendar year based upon their scheduling.

Ms. Hough also indicated they work closely with the City Beautification department to replace grass and general cleanup efforts after the Saturday markets.

City staff made a suggestion for the park committee to designate a committee member to act as a liaison for the Market in the Pass. This would allow for a partnership and be able to present questions and answers regarding the Market in the Pass.

#### **h. Miscellaneous**

**-Discussion of city budget to maintain each park?**

**-Clarification of maintenance schedule park of parks?**

City Arborist and Beautification Director Brad Manus referred to the presented budget documentation and schedule of parks. He also reminded the committee and audience that there is a balance between what equipment is bought for regular use and what equipment is specialty and better served for rental.

#### **5. Adjournment**

Committee Member Lobrano made a motion to adjourn the meeting and noted the next meeting will be a modified date of Monday, March 9, 2026, due to elections being held on the following day. Typically, the meetings will be held every month on the second Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in the courtroom chambers located at the City of Pass Christian city complex. Agendas will be posted on the city website, to social media platforms, Gazebo Gazette and around the city complex five days prior to the meeting. Committee member Retersdorf seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 5:39P.M.

Passed and approved on the 19<sup>th</sup> Day of February 2026.

Melodie Hayes

City Planner

City of Pass Christian