



**City of Pass Christian Park Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2026**

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

Committee Members Absent: Chantel Normand

Staff Members Present:

Melodie Hayes, City Planner, Brad Manus, Beautification Director/City Arborist, officer John Saltarelli

Staff Members Absent: Bret Bentz, Recreation director

Audience Present: Butch Tillson, Susie Tillson, Kevin Hoehner, Kathleen Johnson, Maria deLaBarre, Toni Strickland, Sherry Hough, J. Horton, Tom Smith, Rebecca O'Dwyer, Lane Hobson, Jim Hobson, John Luffey

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

4. Approval of Agenda

Committee Chairman Phares made a motion to approve the agenda. Committee Member DeMetz seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

Committee Lobrano made a motion to accept the meeting minutes February 10, 2026.
Committee chairman Phares seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Motion passed unanimously.

Park Committee Chairman Thomas Phares and City Planner Melodie Hayes addressed the audience and gave opportunity to make any public comments, and no one came to the podium.

5. Discussion

a. Trinity Dog Park

Park committee members asked for a copy of the lease and City Arborist & Beautification Director Brad Manus will ensure they receive a copy for review prior to the next meeting.

b. Henderson Avenue Park updates

The copy of the lease has not been obtained yet and City Arborist & Beautification Director Brad Manus will work on obtaining a copy for review prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Manus also stated there are funds that are currently available and it could be possible with the funds to install some artificial turf over time in areas that could benefit. Cleaning is on a schedule along with pressure washing as long as there is running water. He also noted some of the vegetation could be transplanted as time goes on.

c. War Memorial Park updates

General maintenance needs and a future toddler playground are items to work on regarding the park. The Pass Christian Garden Club could work with the city for interest with volunteers to help fill in flower beds, replanting of flowers and vegetation and could possibly help with the maintenance duties. City Arborist Brad Manus reminded the committee that the City Beautification department only has four a week allotted to staff maintain the grounds and any volunteer work would be welcomed. If any volunteer work that is desired to help will need to go to the Board of Aldermen and notification to ask for an agenda request would need to be into the Deputy City Clerk a week prior to the next available meeting.

d. Miscellaneous

John Luffey came to the podium and asked about creating a no smoking policy in parks. City Arborist and Beautification Director Brad Manus stated it could be possible to designate smoking areas and post signs throughout parks, but regulation of smoking in outdoor spaces is impossible to achieve.

Committee Member Lobrano asked to remind of which parks get maintenance and City Arborist and Beautification Director Brad Manus stated that Henderson Avenue, the Ricky Levy park (at the harbor), the Church Street park, sports complex, War Memorial park and the dog park (mostly) is what is on a rotating schedule to receive maintenance from city staff.

The flagpole at the Ricky Levy park at the harbor has not been resolved as of yet and city staff will work with the Harbor and City Clerk to obtain resolution.

The pavilion is not a park but is maintained by the city and could present in the future, a location for certain events.

City staff will re-send the current budget and maintenance schedule to the board members as some were not able to open the pdf's sent at the prior meeting.

Park Committee Chairman Thomas Phares and City Planner Melodie Hayes addressed the audience and gave a final opportunity (with two other prior opportunities) to make any public comments, and no one came to the podium

Committee member Lobrano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Chairman Phares seconded the motion.

All in favor.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:56 P.M.

Passed and approved on the 14th Day of April 2026.

Melodie Hayes

City Planner

City of Pass Christian