



**City of Pass Christian Park Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 11, 2026**

Committee Members Present: Chairman Thomas J. Phares, Meg Retersdorf, Chantel Normand

Committee Members Absent: Patty DeMetz, Sandra Lobrano

Staff Members Present:

Melodie Hayes; City Planner, Brad Manus; Beautification Director/City Arborist; Dia'mond Woodman, Fire Chief

Staff Members Absent: Bret Bentz, Recreation director

Audience Present: Maria deLaBarre, Joshua Wise, Patrick Wright

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 Retersdorf seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes

Committee Member Retersdorf made a motion to accept the meeting minutes June 9, 2026. Committee Chairman Phares seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion

a. Consideration of a recommendation to the Board of Aldermen to accept the donation of artwork from the Garden Club in War Memorial Park

Committee Member Retersdorf made a motion to recommend to the Board of Aldermen to accept the donation of artwork from the Garden Club to be placed at War Memorial Park. Committee Member Normand seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Updates for Dog Park

Equipment has been ordered and Chairman Phares is working with the Public Works Department to install once materials are delivered. The table is on order and will be done at a later time

c. War Memorial Park budget estimates

Upcoming city budget estimates will solve the problems of lighting and lights will be all around the area of the walking trail areas but will also be of low lighting. The lights will also be around the field areas and the warranties are around the expected life span of 10 years for the materials.

The splash pad at some point in the future will have a \$12,000 upgrade, but the timing for that to happen is to be determined as it is not in the current proposed budget cycle.

d. Miscellaneous

Chief Woodman came to the podium to let board members know of the benefits of a 501c creation for the Park Committee. The Park Commission could consider developing it as a 501c organization with officers such as a president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. The 501c allows for donations for park improvements and would need to match state and IRS requirements. The process to create a 501c is minimal and any donation is at that point tax deductible for the person who made the donation.

Currently, the Main Street group accepts the donations and this would have the Park Committee be their own 501c and the donations would be accepted from the Park Committee and proceed directly to the Board of Aldermen.

City Planner Melodie Hayes stated the next meeting will be on October 13 at 4:30 p.m.

Committee Chairman Phares made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Retersdorf seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 P.M.

Passed and approved on the 13th Day of October 2026.

Melodie Hayes

City Planner

City of Pass Christian