

City of Pass Christian Park Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 13 2026

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

Committee Members Absent: Chantel Normand

Staff Members Present:
Melodie Hayes; City Planner, Brad Manus; Beautification Director/City Arborist

Staff Members Absent: Bret Bentz, Recreation director

Audience Present: Maria deLaBarre

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 Member Retersdorf, made a motion to approve the agenda. Committee Member Lobrano seconded the motion.

All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes

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

All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Discussion

a. Updates regarding the donation of artwork from the Garden Club in War Memorial Park

City Beautification Director Brad Manus stated the shrubs that are going to be donated will be done with the current planting schedule and there will also be transplanting to the City Hall complex. Budgets are reset and the work is set to start soon. The shrubs at Fleitas Park will be replaced soon as well. The donation of the artwork will need to have a dedicated space by the butterfly garden after the artwork is finished.

b. Updates for Dog Park

Committee Chair Phares stated the equipment has arrived and is scheduled to be installed in about two weeks.

Committee Member DeMetz asked if the vines and overgrowth can start to be addressed, the water fountain still seems to be leaking and is located by the Southwest corner facing Scenic Drive. The irrigation system may need to be fixed and some general cleanup in the area.

City Beautification Director Brad manus stated that now the fall season is here, it will be placed on the city maintenance schedule and should happen within two weeks. The irrigation system is ok, but the city will aerate or till. The sod was transplanted but unfortunately the dogs tend to destroy it and that is why the grass is not taking. The field will be cut back and running paths will be opened a little bit more. The “dog run” area sod will be investigated for replacement because that is where most of the concern is. Mulch really should not be added because the smell attracts dogs and they dig

c. Updates for War Memorial Park

There is a possibility that a Live Oak tree will be donated to the War Memorial Park and staff will let the committee know when that is definite.

d. Miscellaneous

The toddler playground equipment is due to be installed towards the end of October 2026.

Committee Member DeMetz asked if the drinking fountain at the toddler park can be cleaned and perhaps if funds allow, to be replaced.

City Planner Melodie Hayes reminded everyone for attendance as much as possible. The net meeting will be scheduled November 10, 2026 at 4:30 P.M where discussion will include Christmas In The Pass events. Come January 2026, the Park Committee will move to quarterly meeting, and city staff would like to explore a time change in the meeting time; perhaps at lunchtime or at 4:00 P.M.

The Market In The Pass will continue to operate where it is currently for the time being.

7. Adjournment

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

All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 P.M.

Passed and approved on the 10th Day of November 2026.

Melodie Hayes

City Planner

City of Pass Christian