

## **Parks Safety Council**

### **Meeting Summary**

**Monday, May 18, 2026**

**Ed Ball Bldg., 214 N. Hogan Street, 4th Floor Conference Room**

### Meeting Attendance

- **Park Safety Council Members:** Chair Bruce J. Tyson, Planning District 4; Walter Bryant, Planning District 3
- **Zoom Members:** Ernest Smith
- **Staff and Elected Officials:** Daniel Piastuck, Chief of Recreational and Community Programming; Terrence Hurst, Parks Maintenance Superintendent; Karlo Atienza, Park Facility Safety Officer; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Supervisor; Necole Jenkins, Neighborhood Services Coordinator
- **Zoom Staff:** Magnus Wallen, City Safety Manager
- **Visitors:** None
- **Zoom Visitors:** None

### Meeting Summary

#### **1. Call to Order/Verify Quorum:**

Bruce J. Tyson, Park Safety Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. Michelle Godwin-Ware verified that there was no quorum. Chair Tyson asked everyone to introduce themselves. The Parks Safety Council welcomed Necole Jenkins, the new Neighborhood Services Coordinator.

#### **2. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:**

Meeting summaries will be approved when the Parks Safety Council has full membership.

#### **3. Elected Officials Report:**

None.

#### **4. Summary of Progress:**

The department demonstrated measurable improvements in safety responsiveness and reporting accuracy. The elimination of unsatisfactory findings in early 2026, combined with the closure of nearly all 2025 issues, indicates positive momentum toward safer and more effectively maintained parks. The Council's priority moving forward remains restoring quorum, reestablishing formal reporting, and continuing collaboration with Parks leadership on data accuracy and proactive safety management.

#### **5. Review of Inspection Reports:**

- With no quorum, the Council did not read reports aloud.
- Karlo Atienza, Park Facility Safety Officer and Magnus Wallen, City Safety Manager were present to answer questions directly.
- Members agreed reviewing printed reports line by line would not add value.
- Council members expressed concern that several inspection reports contained blank

corrective action fields, making it difficult to determine whether identified issues were being addressed.

- Staff acknowledged the need for more detailed status updates and agreed that ongoing repair efforts should be documented even when repairs have not yet been completed.
- Members discussed several repeat discrepancies, including damaged playground equipment, exposed concrete anchors, damaged chain ladders, exposed electrical wiring, damaged fencing, and other recurring maintenance concerns.
- Staff agreed to review the inspection report format and consider changing the “Corrective Action” column to “Status/Corrective Action” to better reflect ongoing updates and completed repairs.

#### **6. Follow Up on 2025 Outstanding Findings:**

- Previous records showed 21 open unsatisfactory findings from 2025.
- After focused review and coordination, only four remain open:
- Murray Hill Park: Two items scheduled for removal.
- Stinson Park: Awaiting contractor quote for bulkhead repair.
- William Sanders: Electrician awaiting arrival of new exit lights.
- Thomas Jefferson: Sidewalk repair in progress through a contractor.
- Staff acknowledged prior gaps in documentation and stated they have now been resolved.
- Council members emphasized the importance of providing updates on long-standing findings so the public can understand what corrective actions are underway.

#### **7. 2026 Inspection Results Quarter-to-Date Review of Safety Report/Updates:**

- Sixty-seven total inspections were completed in early 2026:
- 32 had no findings.
- 33 were satisfactory with findings, 10 of which are already closed.
- 0 satisfactory with hazards.
- 0 unsatisfactory findings.
- Staff emphasized strong early-year performance and improved responsiveness.
- A complete Quarter 1 report will be presented at a future meeting.
- Magnus Wallen reported that 164 inspections were completed during the last quarter, excluding Chandler.
- Overall park conditions were reported as improving, with unsatisfactory ratings remaining uncommon.
- Moving forward, the department will generate quarterly inspection summary reports covering:
  - Q1: January 1 – March 31
  - Q2: April 1 – June 30
  - Q3: July 1 – September 30
  - Q4: October 1 – December 31
- Council requested Excel versions of inspection data to allow sorting and analysis; staff confirmed those reports are being provided.

## **8. Maintenance, Staffing, and Repair Capacity Discussion:**

- Concerns were raised regarding whether staffing levels are adequate for the nation's largest municipal park system.
- Members discussed extended wait times for specialty trades, including electrical, carpentry, and concrete repairs.
- Staff reported that some projects require outside contractors due to limited availability of specialized trades personnel.
- Staff noted that a small, specialized team now handles detailed safety repairs, such as missing swing bolts and similar hazards, increasing responsiveness.
- A suggestion was raised to use security screws on electrical pole panels to reduce tampering. Staff agreed to review the feasibility of the suggestion.
- Mulch displacement remains the most frequently reported maintenance finding.
- Staff clarified that safety concerns primarily arise when hazards such as exposed roots, pipes, anchors, or other structures become exposed.
- Members discussed concerns regarding exposed concrete anchors and electrical panel boxes with visible wiring, emphasizing the importance of appropriately classifying potential hazards.
- Council members stressed the need to prioritize hazards involving water bodies, retention ponds, drainage areas, and damaged fencing that could allow unrestricted access to water.
- Members noted that the Parks Safety Council was originally formed following a drowning incident and emphasized continued vigilance regarding water-related hazards.
- Staff and Council members discussed situations where damaged fencing on neighboring properties could create safety concerns for park users and may require notification to property owners.

## **9. Member Comments:**

- Chair Tyson expressed the need for continued efforts to fill vacant positions on the Parks Safety Council.
- Members discussed ongoing quorum challenges and concerns regarding vacancies that continue to limit the Council's ability to conduct official business.
- Discussion included the length of time required to fill vacancies and the current appointment process for new members.
- Members discussed efforts to amend the Executive Order to reduce the quorum requirement from four members to three in order to improve operational viability.
- Members noted that despite the lack of quorum, inspections and corrective actions continue to be performed and monitored.

## **10. Public Comments:**

- Ernest Smith, Chair of the Urban Core CPAC, expressed interest in serving on the Parks Safety Council and offered to assist with addressing quorum challenges.
- Staff agreed to forward his information to the appropriate department for consideration and appointment processing.
- Mr. Smith requested information regarding safety planning associated with the expansion of Lonnie C. Miller Regional Park.

- Parks staff advised that the project is being completed in phases and that a larger master plan is guiding future development.
- Staff stated that park designs generally incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and agreed to provide additional information regarding safety and security planning as it becomes available.
- Discussion included future park amenities, phased funding, and ongoing construction activities associated with the expansion project.

**11. Adjournment:**

Chair Tyson adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

**NEXT MEETING**

**July 22, 2026, 11:00 a.m.**

**Ed Ball Bldg., 214 N. Hogan Street, 4th Floor Conference Room**

Meetings are recorded. A copy of the audio recording can be obtained through a public records request at [MyJax.com](http://MyJax.com) or 630-CITY.

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**City of Jacksonville, Neighborhood Services Office**

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