

Parks Safety Council

Meeting Summary

Monday, March 23, 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, Don Oulton, Planning District 2.
- **Zoom Members:** None.
- **Staff and Elected Officials:** Dan Piastuck, Chief of Recreation & Community Programming; Terrence Hurst, Parks Maintenance Superintendent; Magnus Wallen, City Safety Manager; Karlo Atienza, Park Facility Safety Officer; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Coordinator.
- **Zoom Staff:** None
- **Visitors:** John Nooney
- **Zoom Visitors:** None

Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Bruce J. Tyson, Park Safety Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. Michelle Godwin-Ware verified that there was no quorum. Chair Tyson asked everyone to introduce themselves. The Parks Safety Council welcomed Karlo Atienza, Risks Management's new Parks Safety Officer.
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** Meeting summaries will be approved when the Park 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.
 - Inspector Magnus was present to answer questions directly.
 - Members agreed reviewing printed reports line-by-line would not add value.
6. **Follow-Up on 2025 Outstanding Findings**
 - Previous records showed 21 open unsatisfactory findings from 2025.
 - After focused review and coordination, only 4 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 via contractor.
 - Staff acknowledged prior gaps in documentation and stated they have now been resolved.
7. **2026 Inspection Results Quarter-to-Date Review of Safety Report/Updates:**
 - 67 total inspections 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 the May meeting.
- Magnus Wallen reported that 164 inspections were completed in the last quarter (excluding Chandler).
- Overall, park conditions were noted as improving; unsatisfactory ratings were uncommon.
- Moving forward, the department will generate quarterly inspection summary reports covering:
 - Q1: Jan 1 – Mar 31
 - Q2: Apr 1 – Jun 30
 - Q3: Jul 1 – Sep 30
 - Q4: Oct 1 – Dec 31
- Council requested Excel versions of inspection data to allow sorting and analysis; staff confirmed these are being sent.
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8. Maintenance, Staffing, and Repair Capacity Discussion:

- Concerns raised regarding:
 - Whether staffing levels are adequate for the nation's largest municipal park system.
 - Extended wait times for specialty trades (electrical, carpentry, concrete).
- Staff reported:
 - Some projects require outside contractors due to limited internal trade specialists.
 - A small, specialized team now handles detailed safety items (e.g., missing swing bolts), increasing responsiveness.
- A suggestion was raised to use security screws on electrical pole panels to reduce tampering; staff agreed to review the feasibility.
- Mulch-related safety findings:
 - Mulch displacement remains the most frequent maintenance finding.
 - Staff clarified that the focus is on conditions where hazards emerge (e.g., exposed roots, pipes), as simple mulch displacement is often unavoidable and low-risk.
 - Only a small number of playground injury cases have been reported in recent years.

9. Member Comments:

- Chair Tyson expressed the need for continued efforts to fill vacant positions.
- Pursue an amendment to the Executive Order to reduce the quorum requirement from four to three for operational viability.

10. Public Comments: John Nooney addressed broader city issues unrelated to park safety. Chair redirected discussion to agenda items.

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

NEXT MEETING: May 18, 2026, 11 a.m.

LOCATION: Ed Ball Bldg., 214 N. Hogan Street, 4th Floor Conference Rm.

Meetings are recorded. A copy of the audio recording can be obtained through a public records request at MyJax.com or 630.CITY

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