

Parks Safety Council

Meeting Summary

Monday, September 28, 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; Ernest Smith, Planning District 1

Staff and Elected Officials: Karlo Atienza, Park Facility Safety Officer; Terrence Hurst, Parks Maintenance Superintendent; Victoria Albright, Parks Operation Manager; Brian Burket, Waterfront Project Manager; Necole Jenkins, 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. Chair Tyson welcomed everyone and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

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. FRDAP Grant Proposal – Lonnie C. Miller Park:

Brian Burket, Parks Department Waterfront Project Manager, presented a proposed application for the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant to fund improvements at Lonnie C. Miller Park. The state grant provides up to \$200,000 with a 50 percent match, supporting a project of up to \$400,000. The presentation was intended to obtain public advisory feedback as part of the application process.

- Proposed improvements include a new metal roof and exterior painting for the restroom building; an additional picnic shelter; conversion of an older exercise station into expanded picnic space; and an additional playground feature.

- Additional proposals include expanding the splash pad area to include benches, patching and rerouting the nature trail around a proposed future fire station, replacing worn benches, and improving trash receptacle enclosures.

- Members identified deteriorating rubber surfacing near playground equipment. The presenter stated that the concern would be noted and followed up on, and that quotes were already being obtained.
- The discussion addressed prior ash remediation at the park, the phased park master plan, parking capacity, and the safety of exercise equipment. Parks staff explained that they removed some ash and capped some as part of site preparation.
- Members asked whether matching Funds could be affected by Amendment 3. The presenter explained that the application was not an award and that City Council would need to approve the grant agreement and the matching appropriation if selected.

5. Review of Inspection Reports:

Council members requested that inspection reports be provided at least one week before meetings to allow sufficient review. Parks representatives stated that their goal was to prepare reports about two weeks in advance and distribute them at least one week before meetings. Members discussed the report dates and completeness of the report and learned that the open-findings report does not necessarily include inspections without findings or completed repairs.

- The quarterly summary reported 65 inspections: 51 with no findings and 14 with findings, or approximately 78 percent without findings.
- One inspection at Huguenot Memorial Park was classified as unsatisfactory with hazards because of a playground climber attachment. The area was secured while repairs were arranged.
- Parks staff discussed a new digital inspection form and additional playground safety inspection training planned for November.
- Members requested access to more up to date information and asked about sharing injury and accident data maintained separately by Risk Management, without identifying individuals.
- Members discussed how parks are selected for inspection, including smaller neighborhood parks, and the distinction between internal Parks Department inspections and Risk Management inspections.

6. Inspection Report Format and Corrective Actions:

Council members recommended making hazard classifications more useful by adopting a numbered or color-coded severity system. Members also discussed keeping open and closed corrective actions easy to locate in a single report, providing electronic updates, and identifying parks by CPAC district when practical.

- Members emphasized that serious safety hazards should be clearly distinguishable from routine maintenance findings.

- Parks representatives offered to adjust the report format and share information on open, closed, and completed inspections as appropriate.
- The Council discussed recurring playground mulch deficiencies at approximately 10 sites and the need for a faster response to safety-related shortages.
- Parks representatives discussed keeping mulch available through maintenance yards and setting aside purchasing authority or designating purchase orders for urgent work during fiscal-year transitions.
- Members discussed hazards associated with ponds, lakes, and other bodies of water at or near parks, particularly where children could gain access. Parks representatives described how fencing, shoreline slopes, and property ownership inform safety evaluations. A member suggested coordinating with a City Council committee examining drowning concerns and considering its recommendations for the Park Safety Standards.

7. Chair's Report/Comments:

- Chair Tyson discussed the need to finalize the Park Safety Standards following previous delays due to quorum issues. Members considered proposed revisions to fencing provisions, including stronger mandatory language and temporary fencing while permanent repairs are pending. The Chair also discussed the Council's reporting process and stated that reports approved by the Council would be signed and distributed to the recipients specified in the Executive Order. Members indicated that additional review of the standards was needed before a final vote.
- Members discussed holding a workshop to review the Park Safety Standards, proposed revisions, and the inspection report format. Monday, October 5, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. was set as the workshop date. The Neighborhood Services Coordinator said she would send invitations including to Parks representatives who could provide technical input.

8. Public Comments:

- John Nooney discussed park and waterway access, including Pottsburg Creek, the Florida Inland Navigation District, potential land acquisitions, and park-related trust funds. He encouraged continued attention to waterfront access and recreational opportunities.

9. Member Comments and Follow-Up Items:

- Follow up on the playground safety surfacing issue at Lonnie C. Miller Park.
- Inquire about access to non-identifying accident and injury information through Risk Management.

- Review contingency arrangements to ensure timely replenishment of playground safety mulch.
- Continue the discussion of water safety, fencing, and proposed Park Safety Standards revisions at the workshop.

10. Adjournment:

Chair Tyson adjourned the meeting at 12:00 pm.

NEXT MEETING

November 23, 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 or 630-CITY.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. Please allow 1–2 business days for notification to process; last-minute requests will be accepted but may not be possible to fulfill. Please contact the Disabled Services Division at VM (904) 255-5466, TTY (904) 255-5475, or email your request to ADAAccommodationRequest@coj.net.

City of Jacksonville, Neighborhood Services Office

214 North Hogan Street, 7th Floor, Jacksonville, Florida