

Parks Safety Council

Meeting Summary

Monday, July 27, 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

Zoom Members: None

Staff and Elected Officials: Daryl Joseph, Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Services; Karlo Atienza, Park Facility Safety Officer; Terrence Hurst, Parks Maintenance Superintendent; Victoria Albright, Parks Operation Manager; Lindsey Smith, Executive Assistant to Chief; Michelle Godwin-Ware, Neighborhood Services Supervisor; Necole Jenkins, Neighborhood Services Coordinator

Zoom Staff: None

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. Chair Tyson welcomed everyone and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. The Parks Safety Council welcomed Ernest Smith, the newly appointed Park Safety Council member representing Planning District 1, and Victoria Albright, the new Parks Operations Manager for the Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Mr. Smith introduced himself and shared his experience serving as Chair of the Urban Core CPAC and as a member of the Jacksonville Housing and Community Development Committee. He expressed his commitment to improving park safety throughout Jacksonville and stated he looked forward to serving on the Council.

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 Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department reported continued progress in park safety inspections, maintenance coordination, and documentation improvements. Department leadership discussed several operational enhancements designed to improve response times, tracking of corrective actions, and communication with the Parks Safety Council.

Staff also introduced several organizational improvements, including additional management support, improved documentation practices, and the implementation of new maintenance software expected later this year that will provide real-time updates on corrective actions and work order completion. The department emphasized its commitment to improving data accuracy while continuing to address park safety concerns throughout Jacksonville

5. Review of Inspection Reports:

With no quorum, the Council did not read reports aloud. Karlo Atienza, Park Facility Safety Officer, was present to answer questions directly. Karlo Atienza, Park Facility Safety Officer, presented the inspection summary covering April 1, 2026, through June 30, 2026.

During the reporting period:

- 266 park inspections were completed.
- 204 inspections resulted in no findings.
- 62 inspections contained findings:
- 7 Unsatisfactory with Hazards
- 23 Satisfactory with Hazards
- 32 Satisfactory with Findings

Approximately 76 percent of all inspections resulted in no findings.

- Staff reported that all critical safety hazards identified during the reporting period had either been repaired, secured, or referred for immediate corrective action.
- Members discussed the overall inspection process and agreed that reviewing every inspection report line-by-line during meetings was not the most productive use of Council time. Instead, discussion focused on recurring issues, corrective actions, and opportunities to improve reporting.
- Council members expressed concerns that several inspection reports contained incomplete or blank corrective action comments, making it difficult to determine whether repairs had been completed or remained in progress.
- Staff acknowledged the concern and explained that significant efforts have been made to update documentation by contacting maintenance personnel directly to verify repair status before distributing reports.
- Parks staff advised that future reports would provide clearer status updates, and discussion included modifying the inspection report format by changing the

Corrective Action" column to "Status/Corrective Action" so ongoing work and completed repairs would be more accurately reflected.

- Members reviewed recurring findings involving playground mulch, damaged fencing, exposed electrical wiring, damaged playground equipment, exposed anchors, chain ladders, bleachers, picnic tables, and other maintenance concerns identified during inspections.

6. Follow Up on 2025 Outstanding Findings:

- Council members discussed several outstanding maintenance findings and requested updates on previously reported issues that remained open.
- Discussion included recurring concerns involving electrical repairs, damaged fencing, playground equipment, mulch deficiencies, and park amenities that had remained unresolved for extended periods.
- Members questioned the length of time required to complete certain repairs and requested clarification regarding the status of several work orders.
- Staff explained that many electrical repairs are assigned through the City's MyJax work order system to City electricians for tracking purposes. Staff acknowledged that some repairs had been completed but were not accurately reflected in the inspection reports due to delays in documentation.
- Victoria Albright advised that one of her responsibilities moving forward will be to monitor work orders, follow up with maintenance staff, and ensure repair statuses are updated in a timely manner.
- Staff discussed the implementation of new maintenance management software expected later this year, which will allow field personnel to update repairs directly from their mobile devices, providing real-time status updates and improving documentation accuracy.
- Council members emphasized the importance of documenting completed work so inspection reports accurately reflect corrective actions taken and the status of outstanding findings.

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

- Staff reviewed inspection trends and discussed the overall condition of City parks during the reporting period.
- Members acknowledged improvements in documentation and corrective action efforts while emphasizing the need for continued follow-up on recurring maintenance issues.
- Staff committed to providing updated inspection spreadsheets more frequently so Council members can monitor corrective actions between meetings.
- Members recommended receiving periodic inspection updates rather than waiting until regularly scheduled meetings.

- Parks Department leadership supported providing monthly inspection spreadsheets to improve communication and allow members to review inspection data before meetings.
- Staff stated that future reports will focus on improving clarity and allowing meetings to concentrate on larger policy discussions and long-term improvements rather than reviewing each inspection individually.
- Director Daryl Joseph stated that the department's goal is to improve reporting accuracy while shifting future Parks Safety Council discussions toward identifying solutions and opportunities to strengthen Jacksonville's park system.

8. Maintenance, Staffing, and Repair Capacity Discussion:

- Council members discussed recurring maintenance concerns involving playground mulch, damaged fencing, electrical repairs, playground hardware, picnic tables, bleachers, and swimming pool facilities.
- Staff explained that playground mulch is currently provided through a contracted vendor who installs large quantities of mulch at park locations.
- To improve response times, the department is establishing satellite mulch storage locations that will allow maintenance crews to replenish smaller areas immediately while continuing to use contracted vendors for larger playground replenishment projects.
- Staff explained that mulch displacement beneath swings and other high-use playground equipment remains one of the most common maintenance findings. Maintenance crews routinely redistribute existing mulch to maintain safe fall zones until additional mulch can be installed.
- Members discussed delays associated with obtaining vendor quotes for larger mulch replacement projects and questioned whether the current purchasing process could be streamlined.
- Staff advised that although pricing is established through existing contracts, current purchasing procedures still require vendor quotes before work orders can be processed.
- Council members discussed numerous electrical findings and expressed concern regarding the amount of time required for repairs involving exposed wiring, electrical panels, lighting, and related infrastructure.
- Staff explained that Parks does not employ dedicated electricians. Electrical repairs are assigned through the [MyJax](#) system and completed by City electricians, allowing repairs to be tracked until completion.

- Staff stated that future maintenance software will improve tracking and reduce delays in documenting completed electrical repairs.
- Members also discussed damaged fencing throughout several parks and emphasized that fencing allowing unrestricted access to retention ponds, drainage areas, or other water bodies should be considered priority safety hazards.
- Staff advised that minor fencing repairs are completed by Parks maintenance personnel while larger repairs requiring extensive materials are contracted through outside vendors.
- Park Safety Council members reiterated that water-related hazards remain one of the Council's highest safety priorities because the Parks Safety Council was originally established following a drowning incident.
- Discussion included damaged playground equipment requiring specialized manufacturer hardware. Staff explained that many playground components utilize tamper-resistant hardware that must be purchased directly from equipment manufacturers, limiting the ability to perform immediate repairs using standard replacement parts.
- Park Safety Council Members discussed AED maintenance at park facilities and requested clarification regarding responsibility for maintaining AED units located within partner-operated facilities. Staff explained that ownership and maintenance responsibilities vary depending on the operating agreement with partner organizations.
- Park Safety Council members also discussed maintenance responsibilities for City-operated swimming pools located on Duval County Public School property. Staff confirmed that Parks coordinates repairs as needed while working with school district personnel and other departments on specialized maintenance items.
- Staff emphasized the department's commitment to improving response times, strengthening communication, and continuing to evaluate maintenance procedures to better serve Jacksonville residents.

9. Member Comments:

- Chair Tyson discussed the importance of restoring the Parks Safety Council's ability to conduct official business by filling the remaining vacant memberships.
- Members discussed current vacancies representing Planning Districts 5 and 6 and the challenges these vacancies create when establishing a quorum. Staff advised that a new recruitment effort will be initiated through the CPAC network and distribution lists to identify interested applicants for the vacant positions.

- Members discussed the possibility of holding a workshop prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting to review future Parks Safety Council reports and provide recommendations before formal approval. Staff recommended allowing additional time for the Parks Department to update inspection reports and documentation before distributing draft reports to Council members.
- Chair Tyson reviewed the Park Safety Standards adopted in 2023 and encouraged members to review the document before the next meeting. Members agreed that the standards should be updated to better reflect current park safety priorities and inspection practices.
- Council members discussed revising language within the standards to better distinguish routine maintenance issues from significant safety hazards requiring immediate attention. Staff agreed to distribute an electronic version of the Park Safety Standards to all Council members to facilitate review and future revisions.
- Director Joseph shared the department's long-term goal of improving Jacksonville's national park system ranking from approximately 60th into the Top 20 over the next several years. He encouraged the Parks Safety Council to continue providing recommendations that support improvements in park safety, maintenance, and overall park quality.
- 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.

10. Public Comments: None

11. Adjournment:

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

NEXT MEETING

September 28, 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.

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