

A G E N D A

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board to be held on **Thursday, March 5, 2026** at **3:00 p.m.** in the Hatchet Conference Room at the Charles Beatty Municipal Services Building, 408 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Park Board Members: Christopher Davis, Chairman
Justin Burns, Vice Chairman
Anne Marie Kornman
Dani Cagle
Brad Burns
Michael Hawkins

1. Call to Order
2. **Public Comments:** Persons may address the Board on any issues. This is the appropriate time for citizens to address the Board on any concern whether on this agenda or not. In accordance with the State of Texas Open Meetings Act, the Board may not comment or deliberate such statements during this period, except as authorized by Section 551.042, Texas Government Code. Speakers must observe the three (3) minute time limit.

In order to be recognized during Public Comments, please complete a Public Appearance Card located at the entrance of the meeting room. Please present the card to the City Secretary, or their designee, ten (10) minutes before the start of the business meeting.

3. Consider approval of minutes of the Park Board meeting of January 8, 2026
4. Hear Leadership Ellis County Project Presentation and take any necessary action
5. Consider approval of the Nature Trail Gateway Entry Monument
6. Receive subcommittee's updates & discussion
7. Discuss Parks Master Plan update
8. Hear and discuss Park Project updates:
 - Thompson Park
 - Nature Trail
 - Lions Park
 - North Grove
 - A&F Thompson
9. Set next meeting date and time
10. Adjourn

The Park Board reserves the right to go into Executive Session as authorized by Section 551.071(2) of the Texas Government Code, for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from legal counsel on any agenda item listed herein.

ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT

This meeting location is wheelchair-accessible. Parking for mobility-impaired persons is available. Any request for sign interpretive services must be made forty-eight hours ahead of the meeting. To make arrangements, call the ADA Coordinator at (469) 309-4000 or (TDD) 1-800-RELAY TX

Notice of Potential Quorum

One or more members of the Waxahachie City Council may be present at this meeting.

No action will be taken by the City Council at this meeting.

Park Board
January 8, 2026

A regular meeting of the City of Waxahachie Park Board was held on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the Hatchet Conference Room at the Charles Beatty Municipal Services Building, 408 S. Rogers, Waxahachie, Texas.

Members Present: Christopher Davis, Chairman
Justin Burns, Vice Chairman
Anne Marie Kornman
Dani Cagle
Brad Burns
Michael Hawkins

Others Present: Brad Barnes, Asst. Director of Parks & Recreation
Morgan Davis, Administrative Coordinator
Ricky Boyd, City Manager
Gumaro Martinez, Executive Director of Parks & Leisure Services

1. Call to Order

Chairman Christopher Davis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

2. Public Comments

Alex Lohmann reiterated his commitment and availability to assist with the Skatepark Initiative.

3. Consider approval of minutes of the Park Board meeting of November 6, 2025

Action:

Dani Cagle moved to approve the Park Board meeting minutes of November 6, 2025. Motion was seconded by Anne Marie Kornman and carried unanimously (6-0).

4. Hear update on A&F Thompson Park and take any necessary action

(Agenda Items #4 and #5 were switched during the meeting.)

Bradley Barnes, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, addressed the removal of the playground equipment at A&F Thompson Park, stating that safety was the non-negotiable primary concern. Ricky Boyd, City Manager, clarified that he was responsible for the decision to remove the equipment due to concerns that it did not meet current safety standards. He noted that the action was taken proactively to prevent injury, acknowledged that advance planning could have been better, and emphasized the City's responsibility to act before someone is hurt. Mr. Boyd stated the goal is to provide a safe park for children and expressed support for reinstalling similar types of equipment that meet modern safety regulations. Chairman Davis emphasized that proper fall-protection surfacing is a critical safety component and is standard in recent park upgrades. The M&M Park renovation was cited as a successful example of updating historic-style equipment to modern safety standards.

Staff expressed confidence that, with collaboration and research, a safe, accessible, and context-appropriate park design can be achieved. Ms. Bowen reiterated residents' desire for the project to

move forward as quickly as possible. Chair Chris confirmed there were no further questions on the item.

No Action taken.

5. Hear presentation from Kathleen Bowen to discuss options for the playground equipment at Thompson Park

(Agenda Items #4 and #5 were switched during the meeting.)

Chairman Davis provided background on Thompson Park, describing it as a small, legacy pocket park located on Jefferson Street behind Sims Library.

Kathleen Bowen, a resident of 527 West Jefferson Street, presented the history, community use, and resident input regarding Thompson Park. She noted that the park was donated to the City in 1946 by Mrs. Arch F. Thompson and is located within the West End National Historic District across from Sims Library. Ms. Bowen stated that the park is heavily used by residents for children's play, library visits, school activities, recreation, and as a pedestrian rest area.

Ms. Bowen discussed the original playground equipment donated by the Lions Club in 1947, including the "Miracle Whirl" merry-go-round, and emphasized the value of the park's simple, historic design with open space for free play.

She shared that residents' primary concern is preserving the historic character of the area, noting the importance of maintaining appropriate scale, proportion, and layout in any future improvements. Resident recommendations include replicating the original playground equipment, similar to the restoration at M&M Park, adding historic plaques, improving landscaping, connecting sidewalks to library improvements, and minimizing impacts to surrounding homeowners. Ms. Bowen concluded by stressing the importance of ongoing communication between the City, Park Board, and residents.

6. Consider a request from the Chapman Family to donate several durable green polywood adirondack chairs for Chapman Park

Jim and Jill Chapman presented a request on behalf of their family and introduced the newly formed 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Conservancy. They explained that the Conservancy was created to collaborate with the City on improvements to Chapman Park.

The initial proposed project is the donation of four Adirondack chairs made of durable, low-maintenance polywood material with a long-term warranty. The Chapmans acknowledged the risk of vandalism or theft and requested permission to place a small plaque on each chair noting the donation by the Chatelaine Park Conservancy.

The Board and staff discussed placement, security, and maintenance considerations. Staff noted the chairs are heavy, highly durable, and similar seating is planned for other parks. It was agreed the chairs should not be permanently affixed, allowing flexibility for park users. Staff will work with the Chapman family to identify appropriate locations that minimize maintenance impacts.

A motion was made and approved to allow the donation and placement of four Adirondack chairs in Chapman Park. The approval applies only to the current request, with any future projects to return to the Board for separate consideration.

Action:

Anne Marie Kornman moved to accept the Chapman Family donation of four polywood Adirondack chairs to be placed at Chapman Park. Motion was seconded by Brad Burns and carried unanimously (6-0).

7. Hear update on park activities and events

Bradley Barnes, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, presented an update on current park activities, events, and ongoing projects.

Christmas Parade

- Attendance estimated at 11,000 in the downtown footprint (potentially higher along full route).
- Staff explained cleanup procedures:
 - Nearly all Parks staff assigned to event.
 - Post-parade cleanup includes sweeping, debris pickup, blowing sidewalks into streets, and scheduled street sweeping.
 - Cleanup focused on downtown core (Courthouse to Railyard Park); extended Main Street route not typically covered.
 - Final staff departure was noted at approximately 9:17 p.m.
- Parade is held the Tuesday after Thanksgiving
- Rules require candy to be handed out, not thrown to reduce trash on the ground.

North Grove Park Development

- Project out to bid; recommendation to award bid to be presented to City Council on January 20.
- Construction anticipated to begin 60–90 days after Council approval.

Nature Trail Cleanup

- Two-mile Nature Trail loop (between Matthew Street and Lions Park) opened approximately two months ago.
- Cleanup underway to remove old farm and building materials.
- Majority of debris staged for removal; remaining cleanup expected by end of next week.

Winter Maintenance Activities

- Annual tree trimming and chipping along hike and bike trail; temporary reroutes and closures expected.
- Stump grinding planned across multiple parks.
- Engineered wood fiber added at Brown-Chiles Park; replenishment at Lions Park and other playgrounds to continue through winter.

Lions Park Fire Training Area

- Board concern raised regarding visibility and appearance.
- Staff acknowledged concern; short-term screening may be reviewed.

- Long-term solution expected during future major renovation or relocation of facility.

Rodeo Grounds

- Bleachers scheduled for demolition due to safety concerns.
- Facility has minimal use; no current redevelopment plans.

Upcoming Maintenance

- Roof repairs planned at Getzendaner Park pavilions due to hail damage.
- Ongoing replacement and refurbishment of single-pedestal drinking fountains throughout the park system.

8. Hear update on park projects

A Board Member expressed strong concern over the paused Parks Master Plan RFQ. A discussion was held regarding the status of the Parks Master Plan Request for Qualifications (RFQ). Gumaro Martinez, Executive Director of Parks & Leisure Services, reported that the RFQ is currently paused due to the departure of a key staff member. Board Member Anne Marie Kornman expressed strong concern about the delay, noting that the lack of a current Parks Master Plan places the City at a disadvantage for state grant funding opportunities. Mr. Martinez explained that the pause also allows time to properly develop the scope of the RFQ, as the new master plan will be a complete rewrite rather than an update to the 2007 plan. Staff indicated that a decision regarding replacement of the departed position is expected within the coming weeks, and that the position will be reposted. No firm timeline was provided for resuming the master plan process. Staff committed to providing the Board with an update as soon as direction is determined.

Mr. Barnes also provided an update on the Lions Park project. The project is currently at the 60% design stage and will re-engage the consultant to refocus efforts on Lions Park with the intent of maintaining the overall project schedule.

9. Hear update and discuss Lake Parks

City staff distributed copies of the City's Lake Ordinance, and the Board held a general discussion regarding Lake Park operations, safety, and jurisdictional authority.

The Board clarified its role and jurisdiction, noting that the Park Board has authority over park property, while the lake itself is governed by separate City lake ordinances. A substantial portion of the discussion focused on safety and management challenges at Lake Park during major holidays. Staff and Board members noted that the park has previously been closed on holidays due to overcrowding, high numbers of non-resident visitors, and serious safety concerns. It was reported that on holidays, approximately 90% of visitors are from outside the city, compared to about 75% on regular days. Safety concerns included multiple near-drownings, with several drownings having occurred over the past years. It was also noted that visitors are often dropped off to bypass parking limitations, further increasing crowding. Historically, a guard or lake ranger had been stationed at the lake, but that practice has since been discontinued.

Jurisdictional, operational, and safety challenges were discussed.

10. Discuss appointing sub-committee(s) and take any necessary action

The Board discussed forming subcommittees to more effectively address high-priority park issues that cannot be fully covered during regular bimonthly meetings. It was noted that subcommittees may consist of three or fewer board members and may include staff and interested citizens. The purpose of these groups would be to provide focused discussion, support staff efforts, and bring well-developed recommendations back to the full Board and, when appropriate, to City Council.

By consensus, the Board established three subcommittees and assigned members as follows:

- Master Plan Subcommittee: Ann Marie Kornman, Michael Hawkins, and Chris Davis
- Recreation and Lake Parks Subcommittee: Justin Burns, Brad Burns, and Dani Cagle
- Thompson Park Subcommittee: Dani Cagle and Ann Marie Kornman

11. Set next meeting date and time

The next Park Board meeting will be held March 5, 2026 at 3:00 pm.

12. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Morgan Davis
Administrative Coordinator