

MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION  
COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CHAMPLIN IN THE COUNTY OF HENNEPIN AND IN THE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA THEREOF:

WORK SESSION MEETING  
NOVEMBER 4, 2025  
COUNCIL CONFERENCE  
ROOM

CALL TO ORDER

The Champlin Parks and Recreation Commission held a Work Session Meeting, called to order by Chair Gary Flandrick at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Gary Flandrick, Commissioners Ken Hirsch Jr., Tim Mueller, Maggie Minge (arrived at 5:56), and Hally Sabas.

Absent: Commissioner Rob Musto.

Also present: Park & Rec Director Dan Glynn.

APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Hirsch, to approve the agenda for the November 4, 2025 Work Session Meeting as presented. Voting in favor: Chair Gary Flandrick, Commissioners Ken Hirsch Jr., Hally Sabas, and Tim Mueller.  
Motion carried 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS

AMENDING THE  
MISSISSIPPI  
CROSSINGS  
WATERCRAFT SLIP  
LOTTERY RULES AND  
LEASES

Park & Rec Director Dan Glynn reviewed that the City of Champlin provides six watercraft slips at Mississippi Point Park, with the program first launched in 2023. Slips are allocated annually through a lottery system open to City residents. Lease terms are structured as a one-year agreement with an optional second year. After completing the second season, participants must re-enter the lottery to be considered for future use. This process was created to provide equitable access, as it was believed the demand would exceed availability.

For the 2025 season, the City had two available watercraft slips at Mississippi Point Park. Twelve residents entered the annual lottery, and all names were drawn. The two selected winners were given until April 15<sup>th</sup> to complete the lease agreement and submit payment. Of the two, one accepted the slip and one declined.

Staff then contacted individuals on the waiting list – comprised of the remaining ten lottery participants – offering each person a one-week window to finalize the lease and submit payment. The entire waiting list was exhausted without any additional leases being secured.

To fill the remaining slips, the City advertised its availability on a first-come, first-served basis through social media platforms. Despite these efforts, the slip remained vacant for the duration of the season.

Mr. Glynn reviewed feedback and observations:

- The most common reasons cited for declining the slip were the limited lease term and cost.
- The lease structure offers a one-year term with an optional second year.
- Several individuals on the waiting list did not own a boat at the time of the lottery and had planned to purchase one only if selected. Many expressed that a two-year lease did not justify the investment in a watercraft.

Each unused watercraft slip represents a loss of \$2,350 in potential revenue for the City. In 2025, one slip remained vacant for the entire season, resulting in a direct revenue loss.

To improve continuity and increase utilization of available watercraft slips, staff recommends amending the 2026 program rules to allow leases to continue for an unlimited number of consecutive seasons. This change would eliminate the current two-year cap and reduce turnover among committed lessees. Additionally, staff recommends grandfathering current lessees into the updated policy,

allowing them to retain their slips beyond the original two-season limit without re-entering the lottery – provided they meet annual payment deadlines and remain in good standing.

Also provided for Commission consideration were updated 2026 Watercraft Slip Lottery Rules, Marked Up Watercraft Slip Lease Agreement, and Anoka Boat Slips Policy.

Commissioner Hirsch asked how many slips Anoka has. Mr. Glynn stated he doesn't know the number. Commissioner Hirsch stated there may be interest in future years.

Commissioner Sabas pointed out that there may be more interest with the opening of Char Blue. She suggested the budget be reduced elsewhere. The public docks are regularly filled.

Chair Flandrick summarized Staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Hirsch asked how many slips could be added. Mr. Glynn stated the CIP would need to be amended. There is room for approximately 12 more slips.

Commissioner Mueller suggested the item be tabled for one year. Commissioner Sabas pointed out that waiting a year could be an issue because there may be too much interest, and the lack of a cap would cause the slips to be overrun.

Mr. Glynn stated there will be five open slips in 2026, though some may be renewed.

Commissioner Sabas suggested the program be suspended until the new restaurant is open, while maintaining active slips. Mr. Glynn stated the restaurant is supposed to open in December.

Commissioner Moeller stated there should be a limit on the slip length. Mr. Glynn noted that Anoka offers eight-year slips for non-residents.

Commissioner Hirsch asked if more slips are being pursued. Mr. Glynn stated it was considered starting in 2014, but there hasn't been much recent interest. Each one was around \$6,000. There is room for 18 in total.

Commissioner Sabas added that a two-year slip isn't enticing for folks to buy a boat.

Commissioner Hirsch asked how much cheaper Anoka's slips are. Mr. Glynn stated there is an approximately \$500 difference.

Commissioner Moeller reiterated his preference to table the item. Mr. Glynn stated that at least three of the five expiring leases are interested in renewing. The renewal due date is February 1, 2026. He offered to seek out feedback from current renters and bring the item back at a future meeting.

It was the consensus of the Planning Commission to table the item until the December meeting.

#### MISSISSIPPI POINT PARK TREE CARVING

Mr. Glynn explained that a large limb fell from a cottonwood tree at Mississippi Point Park, causing significant damage this fall. Unfortunately, the tree could not be saved. What remains is a stump approximately 14 feet tall and six feet wide, which presents a unique opportunity for a tree carving at the park.

Tree carvers were contacted to assess the suitability of the cottonwood stump and to provide cost estimates for potential carving. All three respondents confirmed that cottonwood is a suitable material for carving. They noted that if the tree is hollow, it would not be feasible to carve directly into it. One exception is Chainsaw Man (Mark Kurtz), who supplies his own wood and mounts the finished carving onto the stump, making the tree's condition irrelevant to his process.

Given the stump's proximity to the river, staff directed artists to incorporate native wildlife into their designs. Examples of previous work were provided for Commission review. Each artist submitted a proposal with a unique approach.

- Chainsaw Man (Mark Kurtz) – The carving would be created off-site and installed atop the existing stump. It would feature a rot-resistant red cedar nest, a bald eagle with 5-foot wings in an upward position, and an additional 36-inch perched bald eagle. Cost is \$9,040.
- Big Woods Sculpture – This carving would be completed on-site using the existing stump. The proposed design is a 12-foot-tall wildlife totem featuring a variety of native animals. Cost is \$15,000.
- SW Log Design – This on-site carving would include a 5-foot-tall bald eagle. Cost is \$5,500.

This year's trail project came in at \$140,000 under budget, and the City received an unexpected \$50,000 grant for the Woodlawn Park playground. Together, these developments present an opportunity to allocate funding from the Park Reserve Fund toward a tree carving project.

Staff recommends proceeding with a tree carving for aesthetic purposes, as the stump must remain in place to maintain the structural integrity of the adjacent driveway and parking lot. All three artists are capable of completing the carving, and each offers a distinct style. Staff does not have a specific recommendation regarding which carver to select.

Also provided for Commission consideration were a map of the Tree Carving Location, Big Wood Sculpture Pictures, Chainsaw Main Pictures, and DSW Log Designs Pictures.

Commissioner Minge arrived at 5:56.

Commissioner Moeller asked if the tree is rotten in the middle. Mr. Glynn stated that Public Works Staff confirmed the tree is not rotten in the middle.

Commissioner Sabas noted the site could be vandalized. She asked if there was a way to protect the sculpture. Mr. Glynn stated that the location is difficult. Commissioner Sabas stated she likes the proposal from Big Woods Sculpture.

Chair Flandrick pointed out that the shorter carving would be cheaper to fix in the case of vandalism.

Commissioner Sabas stated they could avoid vandalism if they ensured the sculpture couldn't be climbed easily. Mr. Glynn noted that the proposal from Chainsaw Man would start at the top of the stump, so it would be difficult to vandalize.

Commissioner Moeller suggested the item be cut to the ground level; it would save money. Commissioner Sabas stated she isn't opposed to the idea.

Mr. Glynn stated that stain maintenance could be completed with a sprayer, but the paint would be more difficult to maintain.

Commissioner Moeller asked if the proposed eagle from Chainsaw Man would look too small on top of such a large, wide stump.

Commissioner Sabas asked if the City would consider fundraising for the project. Mr. Glynn stated he hasn't seen the City fundraise before.

Commissioner Hirsch suggested that the stump be used as an art project where an artist would work on it for free. Mr. Glynn stated Chainsaw Man and SW Designs have already given them a significant discount, close to half off.

Commissioner Minge stated she would prefer to save the money as well. The wood carving idea is unique and interesting, but the money could be used elsewhere. She added she is unsure how many people could see or enjoy it based on the size and location.

Commissioner Sabas suggested they seek out a group that would want to do a wood sculpture for free. If that doesn't work, then it can be cut down.

It was the consensus of the Park Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Hirsch, seconded by Commissioner Sabas, to direct Staff to seek artists to donate time to the project via social media. Voting in favor: Chair Gary Flandrick, Commissioners Ken Hirsch Jr., Hally Sabas, Maggie Minge, and Tim Mueller. Motion carried 5-0.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Mueller, seconded by Commissioner Hirsch, to adjourn the meeting. Voting in favor: Chair Gary Flandrick, Commissioners Ken Hirsch Jr., Hally Sabas, Maggie Minge, and Tim Mueller. Motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 p.m.



Gary Flandrick, Parks and Recreation Chairperson

ATTEST:



Dan Glynn, Parks and Recreation Director