

**CITY OF HUDSON
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
121 N. Church Street
Hudson, MI 49247
October 6, 2026 at 5:00 P.M.**

A G E N D A

CALL TO ORDER:

ROLL CALL:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

- A. Excuse Absent Member(s)
- B. Setting the Agenda
- C. Approval of Minutes dated September 15, 2026

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Grant Projects

VISITORS BEFORE THE BOARD:

BOARD COMMENTS:

ADJOURNMENT:

Jeaniene McClellan, City Clerk

**Minutes for this meeting will be available for public review at the
Hudson City Office – 121 N. Church Street, Hudson, Michigan**

PLEASE CALL CITY OFFICE IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND

NOTE: Anyone planning to attend the meeting who has a need of special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is asked to contact the city clerk's office at (517) 448-8983 forty-eight (48) hours prior to the meeting. Staff will be pleased to make the necessary arrangements to provide necessary reasonable accommodations.

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

121 N. Church Street, Hudson, MI 49247

REGULAR MEETING

Minutes of September 15, 2026

The Recreation Advisory Board meeting was called to order by Bruce VanWieren at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Bruce VanWieren, Kimberly Adams, Michelle Bauer, Sara Schudel,
Sierra Sandahl and Richie Wheaton

Absent: Roger Clark

Others Present: Erika Borck, Devin Sandahl, Deputy Clerk Samantha Gerig, City Manager Jeremiah Davies,
City Clerk Jeaniene McClellan.

ORDERS OF THE DAY:

Excuse absent members:

Motion by Richie Wheaton, seconded by Sara Schudel to **excuse Roger Clark from the meeting**, CARRIED by voice vote.

Minutes:

Motion by Richie Wheaton, seconded by Michelle Bauer to **approve the minutes of August 18, 2026, and place on file**, CARRIED by voice vote

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss Surveys – Grant Projects:

Key Takeaways:

- We received 76 responses, with 84% coming from City residents. This is useful community feedback, although it should be treated as guidance rather than a statistically representative vote.
- Residents generally view the park system positively. Approximately 87% rated the overall condition of the parks as average or better.
- The walking trails are our strongest asset. They were the most-used facility and were repeatedly praised for their accessibility, connectivity, cleanliness, and convenience.
- Respondents also appreciate having parks throughout the community, maintained grounds, ballfields, pavilions, and family-friendly spaces.
- At the same time, there is a noticeable difference between general satisfaction and concerns about specific facilities. Respondents repeatedly mentioned bathrooms, playground equipment, courts, parking, lighting, accessibility, and older furnishings.
- Bathrooms were the most frequently identified maintenance or safety concern, followed closely by playground equipment.

- Nealy 40% of respondents indicated they have avoided using a park because of a concern. Comments cited deteriorated equipment, locked or unclean restrooms, poor lighting, insects, parking, accessibility, and personal safety.
- Several concerns may require prompt inspection rather than waiting for long-term planning, particularly missing hardware, playground fall surfaces, deteriorated equipment, court conditions, restroom access, and ADA-related issues.
- There is strong support for investment. About 81% of respondents supported or strongly supported grant applications or future park improvements.
- The most requested future amenities were:
 - Restroom improvements – 54.8%
 - Splash pad – 49.3%
 - New playground equipment – 45.2%
 - More community events – 37%
 - Dog park – 35.6%
 - More youth programming – 32.9%

The comments reveal an important tension: some residents strongly support a splash pad or other new amenities, while others believe the City should improve and maintain existing facilities before adding anything new.

Programming is also a significant theme. Family events, outdoor recreation, summer programs, youth activities, and adult recreation all received interest.

The largest barriers to participation were not cost or transportation. They were a lack of offerings and residents not knowing what programs are available. That suggests communication and programming improvements may be achievable without major capital investment.

Michigan DNR Rec Passport Grant Info:

- Provide funding to local units of government to build new public recreation facilities or fix old ones.
- Grants range from \$7,500 to \$150,000 per project.
- Applicants must provide at least a 25% match of the total project cost.
- Local governments like cities, villages, townships, counties, and official regional or trail authorities.
- Must own, lease, or have a perpetual easement on the project site, plus hold a DNR-approved 5-year recreation plan or capital improvement plan.
- Routine maintenance, administrative overhead, and professional sports stadiums do not qualify.
- Applications must be submitted through Recreation Passport Grants – State of Michigan by April 1 each year.
- Must have a current 5-year creation plan.

Other comments by the board members were;

- How much money to re-seal the walking paths
- ADA – playground equipment
- Tennis courts, basketball court – redone

Co-Chair Person:

Bruce mentioned when he leaves for Florida on November 5th and if we need to have a meeting after he leaves, we need to have a co-chair person to run the meetings.

Motion by Sara Schudel, seconded by Richie Wheaton to **approve Michelle Bauer as the Co-Chair person.**
CARRIED by voice vote

VISITORS BEFORE THE BOARD:

No further comments were received.

BOARD COMMENTS:

The next meeting will be October 6, 2026 at 5:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourn the meeting at 5:43 p.m.

ATTEST:

Jeaniene McClellan, City Clerk