



City of Ashtabula

Ashtabula City Council

Community Development/Economic Development/Parks & Recreation Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Council Chambers

4230 Lake Avenue, Ashtabula, OH 44004

Agenda

- 1. Opening of Committee Meeting**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Sunshine Law Certification
- 2. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Visitors**
- 3. Special Guest Presentation**
 - a. Welcome Home Ohio
- 4. City Manager's Report**
- 5. Parks & Recreation Committee Report**
 - a. March Meeting Minutes
- 6. Unfinished Business**
 - a. Memorial Day Parade
 - b. City Clean Up
- 7. New Business**
- 8. Next Meeting**
 - a. May 6, 2026
- 9. Adjournment**



City of Ashtabula – Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Agenda

Mission Statement: “Our mission is to provide and maintain, quality Green Spaces and Recreational Facilities while partnering with our citizens, businesses and neighbors to enhance the quality of life for all who live in and visit Ashtabula.”

AGENDA/MINUTES

Date: March 23, 2026

Location: AC Council Chambers

Called to order (Time): 5:30 PM

By: Chairman Vanyo

Roll Call of Board Members:

Role	Name	Present	Absent	Term Expires
Council Representative	Jane DiGiacomo	X		N/A
Chairman	Kenneth Vanyo, Sr.	X		11/03/29
Co-Chairman	Blake Hinkle		Exc.	6/15/28
Secretary	Timothy Dibble	X		9/17/26 – E
*Member	Emory Moore	X		5/21/26 – E
Member	Len Jury		Absent	5/21/26 – E
*Member	Jennifer Shannon	X		5/21/29
*Member	Anthony Oquendo	X		5/21/29

*Denotes City Manager Appointment x3. Others are Council appointees x4.

E – Denotes Term expiring soon – declare intent for reappointment or not.

Quorum of four members established.

Guest(s): Jacob Dinsmore – St. Peter’s Episcopal Church

Reading of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion to bypass reading of minutes due to email distribution

Motion to Bypass/Approve – J. Shannon Second: E. Moore

All in favor – Passed Any Corrections: None

Election of Co-Chair – 2026

Co-Chair: Nomination of: Blake Hinkle (in absentia) (agreed to serve if elected)

Motion: Ken Vanyo

Seconded by Emory Moore

No other nominations

Vote: Unanimous approval

Note: **Emory Moore** declined nomination for Co-Chair due to personal reasons.

Guest Address: **Jacob Dinsmore (St. Peter’s Episcopal Church)** addressed the Board regarding:

- Interest in **community involvement and beautification of South Park**
- Proposed efforts:
 - Participation in city cleanup initiatives
 - Planting flowers and pollinator-friendly landscaping
 - General Park maintenance and appearance improvements

Board Guidance:

- Improvements should be **low-maintenance vegetation**
- Coordination with the **City Manager required prior to work**
- Secretary Dibble to **connect Jacob with City Manager via email**

Additional Suggestions:

- Edging, debris removal, and visual cleanup
- Community volunteer engagement opportunities

Any Correspondence: None

Old or Unfinished Business: Website corrections for park designations have been completed utilizing all complete and full, proper park names.

New Business: Anthony Oquendo formally acknowledged as Board Member (term through 2029). Members welcomed him aboard. His assigned parks are South Park and E.48th St Park. Suggested Anthony formalize a Parks & Recreation Board Facebook Page since the old page is defunct. Make all PB Members administrators of page.

Park Accessibility & Visibility

- Lack of **park addresses online**
- Recommendation:
 - Add **addresses or map links** to City website
 - Improve signage and visibility

City Cleanup Event

- Scheduled: **May 9, 2026**
- **Board participation encouraged**
- Discussion of:
 - Illegal dumping concerns
 - Potential signage and enforcement measures

Flag Displays

- Proposal to install **flags at Walnut Beach and other areas** with flag posts in place.
- Considerations:
 - Weather durability
 - Seasonal installation

Future Park Development Concept

- Discussion of potential park development near:
 - Former tannery site / riverfront
- Noted challenges:
 - Ownership (Port Authority)
 - Environmental remediation

Establishment of 2026 Regular Meeting Dates Remainder of 2026

Regular meetings to be held on the **4th Monday of each month** unless otherwise noted:

- April 27
- **May meeting moved to Tuesday, May 19** (due to Memorial Day conflict)
- June 22
- July 27
- August 24
- September 28
- October 26
- November 23 (*to be revisited due to Thanksgiving proximity*)

Winter Schedule Adjustment

- Motion to **cancel December 2026 and January 2027 meetings**
 - Motion: Tim Dibble
 - Second: Ken Vanyo
 - **Approved unanimously**

Specific Park Concerns:

Walnut Beach Park: (Jenni Shannon)

- Restroom urinals damaged; repair or replacement needed – modified to modern with plumbing adjustment without reconstruction/remodel - **remains a priority issue.**
- Power washing recommended inside and out before season opening.
- Increase usage already noted
- Trash concerns during peak periods – what is the spring/summer pickup schedule?

Point Park: (Jenni Shannon) Still interested in:

- Scenic viewers
- Decorative enhancements (e.g., hillside rock lettering)

Highland Beach Park: (Blake Hinkle)

- Scenic viewer concept discussed.
- Infrastructure in place for benches or picnic tables (3)

Nappi Field: (Blake Hinkle)

- Blake is still seeking to donate Public Movie Viewing Screen via “Bula Movie Club” however things are on hold pending his April back surgery. He will keep us informed.
- Sign needs repainted
- Bench safety concerns

Massucci Field: (Ken Vanyo) No new concerns other than sign needs repainted.

Smith Field: (Len Jury)

- Discussed need for geese deterrent.
- Walking track is well in use after winter

W. 38th St. Park: (Emory Moore)

- Recent improvements noted
- Pending:
 - Court resurfacing/painting still needed
 - Fence repair/replace still necessary

W. 47th St. Park NKA UNITY PARK: (Emory Moore)

- In need of pothole repair
- Court resurface and repaint
- General Cleanup
- Need for Enforcement Signage for fenced-in Court – “No Motorized Vehicles In Play Area” as Emory notes some are riding ATV’s and minibikes inside the basketball area.
- Seeking acknowledgement to use the old cinder track for walking so pedestrians know they are allowed to be there.

LCpl. Kevin M. Cornelius Park Memorial: (Len Jury)

- Gazebo vandalism documented for repair.
- Electrical outlet(s) need repaired and secured.
- Discussion to revisit park rules enforcement.
- Need Spring clean-up.

Veterans Park: (Tim Dibble)

- US/POW-MIA Flags replaced thanks to CM Timonere & City FD.
- Park beautification and markers passed through Economic Development Committee and City Manager approved at Council Meeting as smaller ticket items for improvement under his guise.
- Additional Markers more likely by Veterans Day.

E. 48th St. Park: (Anthony Oquendo) Equipment acceptable; lease status unclear.

South Park: (Anthony Oquendo)

- Discussion of beautification partnership w/St. Peter’s Episcopal Church as noted earlier.

Clifford Kadon Presidential Park: (Tim Dibble)

- Discussed CM Timonere’s relocation of amenities plans
- Increased accessibility and visibility

Good of the Parks?

- Importance of Board unity emphasized
- Clarification:
- Parks Board serves in an **advisory role**
- Continued coordination with:
 - City Manager
 - Economic Development Committee

Next Meeting Date/Time: 4/27/2026 @ 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Meeting Adjourned Time: 6:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Timothy A. Dibble, Secretary
Ashtabula Parks & Recreation Board