



City of Chelan

**Parks and Recreation Advisory
Board Meeting
June 1, 2026**

BOARDMEMBERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Boardmembers:

Janet Heg
Brad Nelson
Linda Reister
Matt Engstrom
Todd Higley

Staff Present:

Parks and Recreation Director Audrey Cooper

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Park Board President Reister announced an agenda change. Citizen Comment would be added before Item 2: Old Business. Reister said the special meeting was called by the parks board and it was not initiated by city staff. The meeting was called to discuss the National Golf Foundation report and give the board another opportunity to talk about it and prepare recommendations.

Citizen Comment:

Dan Boone, Chelan — Recommended that any city conversations which have impacts on neighboring property include sending mailers to the affected areas in advance.

2. OLD BUSINESS

A. National Golf Foundation Final Report Review

Parks & Recreation Director Cooper shared that the final report is available to the public on the City Website on the Parks Planning page. Parks board discussed the recommendations from the National Golf Foundation (NGF) report in three categories: Structure/Oversight, Operations, and Physical Improvements.

Structure/Oversight: Within the structure and oversight, a problem identified in the report was operating expenses outstripping revenue. Parks board discussed three structural options and their advantages and disadvantages: continued self-operation, a management contract which could take a variety of forms, and a long-term property lease. Parks Board recommended the city continue self-operation of the course and implementation of the operational recommendations in the report. Parks board recommended only exploring 3rd

party management option with funding for irrigation replacement identified. Parks board recommended the property lease option as a last resort for the City.

Operations: Parks board members were in agreement with the operational recommendations of the NGF report and emphasized the importance of the Food and Beverage service being fulfilled per the contract, investments in the driving range and retail space, as well as improving marketing. The report recommended operational changes would be vetted and implemented by city staff.

Physical Recommendations: Parks board provided a number of funding ideas for the irrigation at the golf course. Their recommendations to consider included lodging tax dollars, community bond, Rotary or other service club, commercial loan, increased rates for daily and annual fees, pre-paid golf passes for 5 to 10 years with an option to transfer one time, fundraising tournaments, per-round capital fees, future available debt service, Tax Levy to the community, sponsorships, and private donors. Parks Board prioritized the following physical improvements: irrigation, cart paths, pro shop/retail space/golf simulator, and driving range. It was discussed that the tax levy idea may not pass from voters but would bring awareness to the community of not only the needs of the golf course but the park system as a whole in need of capital investment. Parks board recommended that operational improvements and irrigation replacement occur at the same time; and if necessary, the irrigation could be split into two different phases.

Director Cooper shared that self-operation of the course requires significant city time and resources from the support services at City Hall and Parks staff. A dedicated focus by City staff on improving internal operations would likely lead the City to fill the current vacancy in the Parks department to ensure the whole department is well-supported for successful operations. Director Cooper is working to schedule a joint meeting with City Council and Parks Board to present their recommendations. The date of the joint meeting is not yet determined and will be publicized in advance to the public.

3. PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR AND CITY STAFF COMMENTS

Parks & Recreation Director Cooper thanked the community for attending the meeting and said that regular Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings are on the 3rd Thursdays of the month at 5:15pm at the Parks Office.

4. BOARD COMMENTS

Boardmember Engstrom asked if the city could put money into an investment fund as a funding mechanism for potential debt payments of the irrigation replacement. Boardmember Nelson thanked attendees for coming to the meeting.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12pm.

MOTION:	I move to adjourn the meeting.
MOVER:	Boardmember Higley
SECONDER:	Boardmember Nelson
AYES:	Boardmember Higley, Boardmember Nelson, Boardmember Heg, Boardmember Engstrom, Boardmember Reister
NAYS:	None
RESULT:	Motion passes.

**The meeting was adjourned
at 6:12 P.M.**

**Date
Approved:**

**Audrey Cooper
Parks and Recreation Director**

**[NAME]
Chair**