

Helena Township Parks & Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2026

Time: 6:05–7:22 PM

Location: Township Offices

Present: Barry, Steve Dell, Brian Apley, Rian Wanstreet, Oryana, Jim Gurr (arrived 6:55 PM)

Absent: Gordie Schafer

Public Present: Butch

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:05 PM**.

2. Approval of Minutes (02/04/2026)

A correction was noted: "Dorothy Clure" was misspelled in the February minutes. Minutes were **approved with correction**.

3. Information from Monthly Helena Township Meeting

The Township Board approved the pickleball rules. Barry presented the plan for the pickleball and tennis court addition to the Board.

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

5. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Updates

No updates until spring.

6. 2026–2030 Recreation & Natural Resource Conservation Plan (Five-Year Plan)

The plan will be published to the new township website as content is migrated from the old site.

7. Sports Court Project

The court area has been marked and surveyed. Oryana shared the survey diagram with the committee.

Barry is working on securing private donations.

Barry noted that a public meeting should be scheduled with 30 days' notice. The committee discussed the need and objectives for the public meeting.

8. Ball Park Project Update

Steve spoke with Gordy and reported the following: Gordy has **\$40,000 committed** and needs an additional \$35,000 to reach \$75,000. Once \$75,000 is committed, MEDC will provide **\$150,000 in matching funds**. The project is on track to finish the ballpark water-facing work.

Oryana spoke with Sue regarding the MOU. Sue wants language that includes an enforcement mechanism. The committee discussed options beyond normal boating laws.

Steve suggested reviewing other park rules for reference. **Brian will survey sample rules from other parks.**

NEW BUSINESS

9. Story Walk for Library

The library has received the MOU. The Library Board will review and approve it.

10. Tennis Net and Pickleball Frame Replacement

The equipment is ready to order, but the vendor is currently out of stock. The order will be placed as soon as stock becomes available.

11. Tennis/Pickleball Court Repair

Steve is taking the repair quote from Elmer's to the Township meeting in March. The approximate cost is **\$140,000**.

Butch suggested obtaining additional bids.

12. Pickleball Rules Implementation

The pickleball rules have been implemented. The committee noted some issues with low compliance with the rules.

13. Annual Community Group Meeting

Oryana proposed including Alden Days and early voting as agenda items. The meeting is proposed for **April 22 at 7:00 PM**.

14. Meeting Time Change

The committee agreed to start meetings at **7:00 PM going forward** (post daylight savings time).

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **7:22 PM**.