GREATER LATROBE
PARKS AND RECREATION

901 Jefferson Street – Latrobe, Pa 15650
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**Greater Latrobe Parks & Recreation Commission**
**Meeting Minutes**
**October 15, 2026**

The monthly meeting of the Greater Latrobe Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at the Latrobe Municipal Building.

Mr. Long called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

**Roll Call:**
**Present:**

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| Mr. Eric Bartels | Mr. Joseph Koluder | Mr. John Urban | Mrs. Bobbi Harr |
| Mrs. Patricia Fenton | Mr. Ed Poponick | Mr. Tom Long | |

**Also in attendance:**

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| Mr. Craig Shevchik | Mrs. Cindy Smith | Dawn Vavick | Mr. Kevin Hook |

**Absent:**

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|---|---|
| Mr. Will Redinger | Mr. Bruce Jones |

**Approval of Minutes:**
Mr. Bartels made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second, Mrs. Fenton. (Vote 7-0)

**Executive Session:**
N/A

**Public Comment:**
N/A

**Bills and Communications (for approval and / or action):**
The Commissioners reviewed the expenditures.
A motion was made to accept the prepaid bills by Mr. Koluder. Second, Mr. Bartels (Vote 7-0)
A motion was made to accept the unpaid bills by Mr. Poponick. Second, Mr. Koluder. (Vote 7-0)

**Report of the Committees:**
**Personnel: (Mr. Long, Mrs. Fenton, Mr. Redinger)**
Mr. Shevchik is scheduling annual reviews for full time staff.

**Finance:** (**Mr. Urban, Mr. Koluder, Mr. Bartels)**
The Commission reviewed the monthly financial reports.

Mrs. Smith, Mr. Shevchik and Mr. Koluder are formulating the 2027 budget. Mr. Shevchik will schedule a meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the budget, before presenting it to the Commission for approval.

Mr. Shevchik drafted a letter to the Mabis McKenna Foundation requesting $40,000.00 in community support.

Medical benefits are up an estimated 14% for 2027. That is a $6500 increase and difficult for a non-profit organization to absorb.

**Facilities/Programs:** (**Mr. Jones, Mr. Poponick, Mrs. Harr)**
The ladies' room at the Rogers McFeely Memorial Pool experienced plumbing issues this summer. These are the original pipes from the '50's. Mr. Shevchik had a contractor look at the plumbing with a camera. It was determined there are some snags inside the cast iron pipes. Hopefully, the snags can be shaved and coated to avoid digging up the lines beneath the concrete.

Mr. Shevchik and Mr. Rich Rauso visited the Pleasant Unity Playground and determined a pre-cast bathroom could be added to the facility as there are water and sewage lines at the facility. The county used the pre-cast buildings with much success.

Damage was done to the newly renovated pickleball courts. It looked as if an e-bike continuously ran their back tire over the surface and burnt a significant hole in the court. Mr. Shevchik reached out to the company for repairs. Police were notified.

The net crank at the tennis courts was damaged. Police were notified.

There was a substantial sink hole on the path behind the high rise. Mr. Scott Wadjic and his crew from public works fixed the problem in a timely manner.

BMX bicycle riders were digging up dirt and building a ramp behind the pavilion at Cardinal Park.

A young girl was caught drawing all over the back boards at Cardinal Park with a sharpie. Mr. Shevchik met with the family to clean the surface.

There are holes in the back boards at the 1st Ward courts. Mr. Shevchik is looking into aluminum/metal boards as replacements.

Mr. Shevchik contracted Loyalhanna Environmental for the following projects:
Haul and spread mulch at 3rd Ward, Remove equipment from John Street Parklet,
Spread Millings at shop, remove the Pool Pergola between the concessions stand and filter house.
Paint pergola near admissions entrance at the pool.

Lisa Pope completed painting the trolley and store fronts at Playland. She did a fantastic job! Mr. Shevchik is working with a muralist to come in the spring to paint the climbing wall portion of the structure.

The swing set at Memorial Dr. is broken. The cross bar snapped. There was no rust in the affected area. Mr. Shevchik contacted Pete Jeffries to get the structure replaced. A young man was swinging when it broke. Mr. Koluder recommended contacting the insurance agency as a precautionary measure.

The Fall Market at Unity Park on October 4th was very nice, just lightly attended. Mr. Shevchik and Mr. Hook will review the event.

The coach trip to Tree Tops Restaurant and Polymath Park was lightly attended but very well received by all participants.

Bantam Basketball is full for the first session. This is the first time using the new two x/week format.

There are 13 registered for Spooky Kooky experiments, part of our STEM Creekside Programming slated on October 19th at the Timken Plaza, in Legion Keener Park.

There were 18 participants in the Splash of Spooky art class at the Latrobe Art Center on 10/7.

**Report of the Director:**
The Cash Bash is slated for 11/7. We are in need of volunteers and baskets. All commission members are asked to attend, sell tickets, and/or donate to the event.

Mr. Shevchik and Ms. Vavick attended the NRPA (National Recreation & Parks Association) Conference in Philadelphia September 28th - October 1st .

The Greater Latrobe School District awarded $2000 to Parks & Recreation for our participation in parking at the Annual Steeler Night. (Note: We received $4000 in 2025, and $3000 in 2024) respectively.

**New Business:**
The 32nd Turkey Trot is right around the corner. We are in need of a few more sponsors and volunteers. Mr. and Mrs. Koluder plan to man the water station with Mrs. Fenton.

Mr. Bartels, Mr. Koluder , and Mr. Poponick' s terms are expiring at the end of 2026. All were directed to please notify their respective entity if interested in continuing to serve the Commission.

Reports are being sent to the City of Latrobe and the Greater Latrobe School District.

Mrs. Fenton made a motion to adjourn at 5:10 PM. Second, Mr. Bartels. (Vote 7-0)

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 4:30 PM at the LATROBE MUNICIPAL BUILDING on Thursday, November 19, 2026.**

**Respectfully submitted,**
Dawn M Vavick
**Dawn M. Vavick**
**Program/Aquatics Director**

Approved 11/19/26 – Thomas B Long