



901 Jefferson Street – Latrobe, Pa 15650
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**Greater Latrobe Parks & Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2026**

The monthly meeting of the Greater Latrobe Parks & Recreation Commission was held on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at the Latrobe Municipal Building.

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

Roll Call:

Present:

Mr. Eric Bartels	Mr. Tom Long	Mrs. Bobbi Harr	Mr. Will Redinger
Mr. Bruce Jones	Mr. John Urban		

Also in attendance:

Mr. Craig Shevchik	Mr. Kevin Hook	Ms. Dawn Vavick
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Absent:

Mr. Ed Poponick	Mr. Joseph Koluder	Mrs. Patricia D. Fenton
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Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Bartels made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Second, Mrs. Harr. (Vote 5-0)

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. Redinger. Second, Mrs. Harr (Vote 5-0)

A motion was made to accept the unpaid bills by Mr. Bartels. Second, Mr. Jones. (Vote 5-0)

Report of the Committees:

Personnel: (Mr. Long, Mrs. Fenton, Mr. Redinger)

The summer staff list was presented to the Commission. Mr. Long made a motion to hire the seasonal employees with the omission of the office assistant. Second, Mrs. Harr. (Vote: 5-0)

Mr. Shevchik complimented the work of Mr. Scott Immel and the rest of the Maintenance staff for all their hard work keeping the parks mowed, and the pool cleaned and prepped for the upcoming season.

Finance: (Mr. Urban, Mr. Koluder, Mr. Bartels)

The Commission reviewed the monthly financial reports.

The Rogers McFeely Memorial Pool bathroom partition expense will be offset by the McFeely Rogers Foundation.

Facilities/Programs: (Mr. Jones, Mr. Poponick, Mrs. Harr)

The Splash Pad construction is 95% complete. The project is slated for completion prior to the June 1st opening day. A final project check list was prepared to review with Vortex (the Splash Pad Company). A guard and two play camp counselors will be stationed at the pad each day during very busy hours at the site. Tobin's Landscaping will be installing sod in the area surrounding the pad. The weather has created some delays and setbacks, creating a super stressful situation. There will be a ribbon cutting event in the near future.

The Rogers McFeely Memorial Pool was recently power washed, cleaned, and filled. It looked GREAT! Unfortunately, there was a strange chemical reaction and the water turned green, then dark brown. The pool had to be drained and re-filled. There is a testing process underway to get the water regulated.

The Tennis/Pickleball Court construction hit a snag. The tennis courts need excavated down another 8" because the original construction did not lay a proper stone foundation. A stone base of six inches of #1 rock and two inches of 2A rock was added to ensure proper installation. This costs an additional \$47,000.00. Weather has also been a major reason for construction delays. Kurt Thomas of the Greater Latrobe School District may permit us to use their courts for our first session of Tennis Lessons. The Commission is grateful to the donors and supporters who raised the extra funding on such short notice.

The Loyalhanna Sojourn (May 16th) had 148 paddlers. There were three incidents with kayakers getting into trouble on the river. Safety boaters and emergency personnel got everyone to safety. The program is offered in cooperation with the Loyalhanna Watershed Association and Keystone State Park.

There are 50 full time campers (38 in 2025) thus far this season, plus weekly and daily participants. There will be roughly 75 campers per day. Mr. Shevchik hired additional staff and ordered extra equipment and another shed to accommodate such a large group.

The **LATROBE** Farmers Market opens Tuesday, June 2nd. Mr. Hook received favorable responses to our vendors regarding the upcoming season.

The coach trip to Rogers Flea Market on May 15th was cancelled due to lack of participation. Riding the Rails and Oil Trails in July is shaping up to be a great trip.

Youth Dek Hockey and Youth Soccer are nearing completion for the spring season. Mr. Hook and Mr. Sam Brink did a good job.

The Merry Go Round at Lakeside Playground needs repaired. Mr. Poponick called a meeting with Mr. Ford regarding the importance of this repair. Mr. Shevchik will follow up with Mr. Ford.

Carson Power Washing was hired to clean the Rogers McFeely Memorial Pool Deck, Marguerite Playground and Pavilion. They are doing a great job.

Engineered Wood Fabric was installed at Unity Park. Marguerite, 3rd Ward Playground, and the Memorial Recreation Area are scheduled next.

The E-Bike/E-Scooter signs have arrived and are awaiting installation.

Report of the Director:

Legion Baseball has signed the user agreement.

Fred Rogers Day is scheduled for June 6th, with several other activities slated throughout the week. Mr. Shevchik, Ms. Vavick, Mr. Hook and Mr. Brink are helping at the event.

The Firecracker Race on 7/3 still needs volunteers and sponsors.

The parks have been super busy!

New Business:

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

Mr. Bartels made a motion to adjourn at 5:09 PM. Second, Mr. Long. (Vote 6-0)

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 4:30 PM at the LATROBE MUNICIPAL BUILDING on Thursday, June 18, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn M Varick

**Dawn M. Vavick
Program/Aquatics Director**

Approved by Mr. Thomas Long – 6/48/26