

City of Buffalo City – Recreation Committee Meeting
Monday, August 3, 2026
7pm – Buffalo City Park

The Recreation Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman George Fuller. Also present: Mayor Ben Holien, Alderperson Hank Rollinger and City Clerk Jenny Ehlenfeldt. Citizens present: Bill Lockington, Mark Bestul, Karson Lentz, Bob Kriesel, Terry Heggmen,

River Valley Pickleball group members requested a meeting after doing an exceptional job of raising funds the first half of this year. They told the committee they have over \$56,000 raised and also have a pledge to match those funds. They are requesting the plans move forward by settling on a location to put the new pickleball courts and possibly starting to break ground this fall. They would like to add to their plans to create at least 3 courts.

The committee and group members present discussed options for court locations. The group asked the committee if they could use the existing tennis/basketball courts to create the Pickleball courts and then have the other court be a multi-purpose court for basketball and if someone wanted to play tennis a net that could be put up and down. Holien said he would not be in favor of that or any other plans that removed any current recreation from the park. Other committee members agreed. Discussed size needed. Fuller and Holien suggested the group put a plan together that would expand the current multi-purpose court area 60+ feet to the south and either make that area into a tennis or basketball court leaving the current area open for new pickleball courts or create new pickleball courts on the new surface. All surfaces would need to be resurfaced to meet the pickleball expectations. City would not want to only resurface half the tennis/basketball courts. The group was also reminded that the City would not have funds to contribute at all in 2026 and the budget for 2027 will more than likely also not have that much excess available to contribute. Rollinger told the group the city works on a tight budget with little extra to work in each year. Ehlenfeldt reminded the group the city has a levy limit so even if they wanted to raise taxes to put towards a project the state does not allow it. Discussed the options for bidding the project out once there is a final plan. Holien reminded the group that ultimately the court is City property which could require opening for public bids, a higher standard for the project as well as the City owning, insuring and maintaining the courts in the future.

Locating the courts at Foelsch Park was briefly discussed. The Recreation committee members do not feel this location is the best for all. Pickleball group also agreed.

Fuller asked if the group had looked into the sport court option for the project. They said they would research that option. Holien asked the group to put together a plan including potential costs and options expanding on the existing court and then the recreation committee would meet with them again.

Motion Holien, second Rollinger to adjourn. All yes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted for the Recreation Committee,

Jenny Ehlenfeldt
Clerk/Treasurer