



RECEIVED

By City Clerks Office at 3:23 pm, May 14, 2026

CITY OF MELROSE

PARK COMMISSION

MINUTES • APRIL 13, 2026

Mt. Hood Clubhouse
100 Slayton Road, MA, Melrose 02176

Regular Meeting

7:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Kelly Broderick		Absent	
Anne Ahern		Present	
Rob Kirsh	Acting Chair	Present	
John Mercer		Present	
Jim Donohue	Chair	Present	Absent

Also present: Rob Carrillo

II. SIGNING OF WARRANTS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes March 9, 2026

Motion: Approve the Minutes of March 9, 2026

RESULT:	PASSED [4 TO 0, 1 absent]
MOVER:	John Mercer
SECONDER:	Anne Ahern
AYES:	Kelly Broderick, Anne Ahern, John Mercer, Rob Kirsh
ABSENT:	Jim Donohue

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION(MT HOOD)

Motion: Open Mt Hood Public Participation

By: John Mercer, Second: Anne Ahern - motion carried.

Michelle Bettano, 194 Penney Rd. is coming before the Park Commission to request a date as to when the promised trees and new net were going to go up on the 14th hole. Michelle's husband strongly requested a date when he can expect the trees and net. He would ultimately like the 14th hole to be significantly changed.

John Mercer told the Bettanos that the trees would hopefully be in on May 1st.

Devin Romanul, Ward 7, City Councilor is here for the neighbors of Penney Rd. He is reaching out for the safety of all the Mt Hood neighbors and asking that the Park Commission and Sagamore do all they can to be good neighbors and keep them safe.

Motion: Close Mt Hood Public Participation
By: John Mercer, Second: Anne Ahern - motion carried.

V. MOUNT HOOD REPORT

- 1. Report on Season Passes/Contracts/Charity/No Shows

YTD 57 Season Passes have been sold, \$125,882. 16 Contract Tee times have been sold, \$6,800.

RESULT: REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION

- 2. Monthly Revenues

Golf revenue is down for the year by \$97,589 from 2025. Weather has been the major reason. Food and Beverage and the Pro Shop are also down. The simulators are up by \$1,500. The commission expects to see a big change once the weather warms up.

RESULT: REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION

- 3. Report on requests for rental of club house

Function Report is in the packet.

RESULT: REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION

- 4. Marketing Plan

Sagamore is not in attendance to report.

RESULT: REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION

- 5. Course Maintenance & Staffing Log, Certifications

- a. Capital Improvement Priorities

Sagamore submitted a list of priorities that they would like to get done in 2026. The list is in the packet. The net on Penney Rd and the trees on Hole 14 were approved at a past meetings. They are in progress.

Rob Kirsh read a statement from Sagamore about 2 of the other Capital Improvement projects: the need for Starter Kiosks on the 1st and 10th holes and a statement from Sagamore about the need for the enlargement of the cart pen. The statements will be included in the minutes packet.

Motion: To approve Sagamore’s request to build Starter Kiosks, to be funded by Mt Hood.

RESULT:	PASSED [4 TO 0, 1 absent]
MOVER:	John Mercer
SECONDER:	Anne Ahern
AYES:	Kelly Broderick, Anne Ahern, John Mercer, Rob Kirsh
ABSENT:	Jim Donohue

Motion: To approve Sagamore’s request to enlarge the cart pen, to be funded by Mt Hood.

RESULT:	PASSED [4 TO 0, 1 absent]
MOVER:	John Mercer
SECONDER:	Anne Ahern
AYES:	Kelly Broderick, Anne Ahern, John Mercer, Rob Kirsh
ABSENT:	Jim Donohue

The other Capital Improvement Projects on the list, Cart Paths, and Equipment Replacement will have to be Mt Hood Free Cash Requests. They will be brought up again at a later date.

6. Building Maintenance Report

Sagamore not in attendance to report.

RESULT:	REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION
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7. Report on General Operation of Golf Course

Sagamore not in attendance to report.

RESULT:	REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION
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8. FY26 Mt Hood Budget

a. Mt Hood Free Cash into Reserve Fund

Tabled to next meeting

RESULT: REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION(RECREATION & PARKS)

Motion: Open Mt Hood Public Participation
By: John Mercer, Second: Anne Ahern - motion carried.

To note: a petition from the pickleball community supporting the initiative to double line 2 tennis courts at the Tremont St courts was submitted. It was signed by 230 authorized Melrose residents.

Rob Kirsh read a statement emailed at 12:27pm giving the background history of the pickleball courts and acknowledged that there are many people here tonight and comments will be kept to 3 minutes please.

Laurie Schmidt, tennis player, plays in the MTA, asked if other places had been looked into for pickleball. She feels there must be other places for pickleball besides the tennis court overlining. She doesn't want pickleball or tennis to suffer.

Cecelia Sibley ,32 Howie Street, read her statement and asked that the Park Commission hold on double lining 2 Tremont St tennis courts. She had many concerns about this. Cecelia submitted a petition against the double lining and her many questions and her request to please pause the project. She submitted a petition signed by 50 residents requesting to keep the tennis courts as is.

Ellen Cobau, 79 Otis St, commented that she is against double lining the tennis courts. It seems like the Park Commission needs to do some more research to find alternatives.

Swains Pond Resident, hopes that the money that was allotted for pickleball courts at Pine Banks around 2023 has not been forgotten. What happened to that? She is a member of the tennis community.

Cynthia O'Donnell, 44 Charles Street, drives by the tennis courts almost every day in the summer and they are always very full. She is part of the tennis community , but, also loves pickleball. Her hopes is to find a place for pickleball alone.

Sarah Davis, 6 Melbourne Ave, is a pickleball player, said that a lot of work has been done to find a place for pickleball. A lot! There is so much interest in pickleball that volunteers are chalking the lines for pickleball now every time that recreation holds their programs(2 days a week right now).

Mary Rasnor, 23 Ardsmore Rd, is a tennis player. She wants to make note that the 4 tennis courts at Crystal Street are a disgrace and so dangerous. They are an embarrassment. The high school actually has to play matches on them. We need to take care of what we have. What is going to be done with them?

Jim Atkinson, Damon Ave., is a Melrose High tennis player, coach and his daughter plays tennis on the courts. He would really like to see the courts stay as tennis courts. He sees the tennis courts getting cut down to 2 courts, with Crystal Street being almost unplayable and 2 tennis courts being turned into pickleball courts. That is a shame.

Superintendent Carrillo reread the statement that Chair Kirsh previously read: that when the override passed the city council approved the funding of 3 court projects: pickleball lines at Tremont Street, resurfacing of Crystal St tennis courts as a whole and the turning Foss park into a full court basketball court.

Grace Greenberg, talked about the Crystal St courts being in such disrepair. Even so those courts are usually still full. Which points out that tennis is so very popular. She also plays pickleball.

Monica Deluca, 21 Dexter Rd, has played at the Wakefield combined courts. She would encourage people to go take a look at them. They are double lined for tennis and pickleball. She said it works very well and is not a problem.

Joe Nerden, 277 Grove St, submitted an email that he had sent and read into the records. He gave his personal history with pickleball in Melrose. He has been involved in it since Mayor Dolan's time. He is so disappointed that the Park Commission may go back on their vote to paint the pickleball lines.

Tina Letch, 47 Porter St., is a pickleball player, teacher, and wants to teach kids. She is not wanting to take away from the tennis players. But, she feels it is a disservice to the kids to not give them a chance to play. She would love to start a kids program and see a high school team form.

Christine Dumont, has to go to other towns to play pickleball. It seems like it could benefit the community to bring in other people from other towns to play pickleball in Melrose. She feels a lot of due diligence has been done to find a spot for pickleball. The pickleball community has been fighting for a long time for courts.

Janice Bissex, 40 Glen St, wants to echo that the commission and people have scoured the city for a place to put pickleball courts. Many fields in Melrose are double, triple and even more sport lined. She feels it would become easily adapted to.

Jane Wiesen, 52 Malvern St. has been involved in the mission for more than 3 years to find a place for pickleball to play. She understands tennis's issue with the double lining, she really does. It is not ideal for anyone. But, it gives pickleball players a place to play. Hopefully in the future some other place will come up. She is asking tennis to please be willing to share.

Kerri DeWolf, Malvern St, is a neighbor of the Foss Park pickleball courts. It has been 5 years of this pickleball issue. There has been so much work done on this issue. She would ask the tennis community to please share with the pickleball community and please bring back basketball at Foss Park. The noise from basketball is nothing like pickleball noise.

Cecelia Sibley asked how reservations will be handled. There should at least be a small committee to discuss this. She has a list of questions she feels need answers to especially if the courts are being painted in 6 weeks. She gave a list of questions to the Park Commission Secretary. Where do they go forward from here. Chair Kirsh said that Frank Olivieri will be doing the scheduling. He said they will circle back with Frank and get back to her. The list of questions will be included in these minutes.

Motion: Close Mt Hood Public Participation
By: John Mercer, Second: Kelly Broderick - motion carried.

VI. RECREATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

1. Program Updates

Frank Olivieri was unavailable tonight, no update

RESULT: REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION

2. FY26 Recreation Budget

No update

RESULT: REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION

VII. PARK DEPARTMENT REPORT

1. General Park Dept. Report

Spring sports have started this week. A little bit of delay with some fields not ready to play on. Weather and lack of numbers on the green team has contributed to this. Pine Banks has helped out in the interim.

RESULT: REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION

2. Capital Improvement Park Project Design Decisions

Rob Carrillo explained the 2 playground projects that the Park Department received funding for. The scopes of work are the replacement of the current structures at Dunton Park and the older side of the Common, replacement of a couple stand alone structures on the younger side at the Common, and full floor replacement at the Common. With this project there is no call for expansion, just upgrades to what is there. Rob came up with several options for each playground and would like the commission to discuss them. The older structure at the Common is the one furthest away from the Common Market.

a. Common Park

Rob’s suggestion to the commission for the Common is Option 1. He bases this on his experience with the companies and the quality of the equipment. The swings will stay. The small sandbox will go away, but the big one will stay. The sand grinding into the flooring wears it down much quicker. The rubber flooring provides accessibility to all. This project does not include improvements to the asphalt tot lot. A trash can has been brought back to the playground and 1 by the softball field. That is all the administration has decided to put back.

Motion: To approve Option 1 to replace the Common Park older structures, hopefully to be done in the Fall of 2026.

RESULT: PASSED [4 TO 0, 1 absent]
MOVER: John Mercer
SECONDER: Anne Ahern
AYES: Kelly Broderick, Anne Ahern, John Mercer, Rob Kirsh
ABSENT: Jim Donohue

b. Dunton Park

Rob thinks that option 2 makes the most sense for Dunton Park. Option 4 looks good, but, he has never worked with the company and they put together their bid by just an aerial view. Rob said he received a lot of emails asking for swings, trees, benches, tables. It is not to say that none of this can happen, but, the funding is for a specific scope.

Dunton Park neighbors that were present were not happy with the process. They feel like they did not have a voice in the whole project. They love Volunteer Park and would love Dunton to be more like that. Their emails were taken and they will be updated when there is something to tell.

Chair Kirsh explained that if there is no moving forward with one of these options then they risk losing the money for the project. They can come back in the future and look at swings, and at benches etc. Chair Kirsh is committed with the neighbors to support the continued development of this park.

Motion: To approve Option 2 to replace the Dunton Park existing structure, hopefully to be done in the Fall of 2026.

RESULT:	PASSED [4 TO 0, 1 absent]
MOVER:	John Mercer
SECONDER:	Kelly Broderick
AYES:	Kelly Broderick, Anne Ahern, John Mercer, Rob Kirsh
ABSENT:	Jim Donohue

3. The Urban Biodiversity Alliance – Meghan McDonough

 Meghan will present at a later date.

RESULT:	REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION
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4. FY26 Park Budget

No update

RESULT:	REVIEWED BY PARK COMMISSION
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VIII. ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING

None

Motion: To adjourn
By: Kelly Broderick, Second: John Mercer - motion carried.

Clubhouse 781-665-6656

Cell 603-234-2856

Pioneers of Public Golf in New England

SAGAMORE SPRING GOLF CLUB (MA) / SAGAMORE-HAMPTON GOLF CLUB (NH) / SAGAMORE GOLF CENTER (NH)

sagamoregolf.com

From: Karen Haskovec <khaskovec@sagamoregolf.com>

Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 2:21 PM

To: Dean Scarito Sr <dscaritosr@sagamoregolf.com>

Subject:

We are requesting two new starter sheds to help with greeting customers in lieu of using golf carts, while also improving overall professionalism and efficiency. Currently, our starters do not have a permanent, designated location, which creates inconsistency in customer service and leaves staff exposed to the elements. Without proper shelter, starters are forced to operate in uncomfortable and sometimes unsafe weather conditions, which can impact both their performance and the customer experience. Additionally, the lack of a defined, visible starting point can appear disorganized and unprofessional to guests upon arrival. Installing two starter sheds will provide a clear, consistent presence for our team, protect staff from weather, and enhance the overall first impression of our facility.

Karen Haskovec
Office Manager
Mount Hood Golf Course
Sagamore Spring Golf Course
khaskovec@sagamoregolf.com
781-665-6656 ext. 4

1. I would appreciate greater clarity on how this ball pickleball trial “went well” conclusion was reached.
2. who was included in this outreach, what questions we’re asked, and how was feedback collected?
3. Was there an email or survey sent to either the pickleball and tennis communities regarding this issue.
4. What formal town survey conducted regarding racket sports? Is there data reflecting the number of pickleball players versus tennis players in our community? Have usage patterns been evaluated in a measurable way?
5. Does painting these lines check off something Parks to do list, will you give up finding a permanent solution for the pickleball community. Will you continue to take over more Tennis courts ?
6. Was running the pickleball trial during shoulder season , a fair enough assessment to say that it went well without issue? And how does one judge this?
7. I would also like to raise awareness of the proposed pickleball courts at Pine Banks. Melrose has already contributed \$35,000 toward this initiative, and it remains listed under new initiatives for while Pine Banks may fall outside the direct purview of this committee, it is closely related to the current discussion and warrants transparency for the community. Given this investment and planned expansion, it is reasonable to question why additional permanent changes to existing tennis courts are being pursued concurrently?
8. If the number of pickleball courts outweigh the number of tennis courts , will you return them to full tennis courts?
9. Were there were any financial contributions or incentives from the Lyons family connected to this project, and how that may factor into current or future decisions regarding court use?
10. How will you determine who has the right to use the Tremont courts?
11. How do you envision the courts being shared?
12. Has input been gathered from both the pickleball and tennis communities outside of this committee regarding shared use?
13. How will reservations be handled?
14. Will these courts remain under PlayLocal Tennis, transition to PlayLocal Pickleball, or be removed From the scheduling platform entirely
15. Can the PlayLocal system accommodate simultaneous scheduling?
16. Will it become first come first serve. (Pardon the pun)
17. Will parks staff be required to monitor and ensure fair usage?
18. Are clear signs created for who has the right to play access and being mounted on the fence?
19. How are the temporary nets being managed? Who is responsible for moving them? Storing them? And Safety construction of nets?
20. If you do go forward with this project without pausing for a more collaborative input , who do we reach out to if issues arise

Can the parks and rec committee commit to any of the following

- Pause the current plan to paint permanent pickleball lines
- Conduct a transparent community survey or usage study
- Form a joint committee of tennis and pickleball stakeholders
- Explore solutions that address availability, equity, environmental impact and community impact.

Thank you for your time, allowing me to bring this concern forward and for your continued service to the Melrose community. I would welcome the opportunity to stay informed and participate constructively in this process.