

Kinsley-Offerle Recreation Meeting Minutes August 5, 2026

A. Call to Order
Commissioner Castaneda called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

B. Roll Call
Present: Castaneda, Ebert, Riisoe, Strate
Absent: Frame
Staff: Recreation Director Dawson Mauk, City Manager Clay Curtin

C. Consent Agenda: Commission will have consideration of approving the consent agenda items:

a. Approval of minutes for the regular meeting July 1, 2026

b. Recreation Commission Financials

Recreation Director Mauk commented that these financials do not yet reflect costs related to football helmets. He stated that safety proto-

cols call for helmets to be resurfaced or replaced every two years. He mentioned that 20 helmets were recently evaluated and 10 had reached the end of their useful life.

ACTION: Motion and second (Ebert/Castaneda) to approve all items on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed 4-0 (Frame absent).

D. Other Communication

Recreation Director Mauk distributed the budget form for signature by each commissioner. The Kinsley Offerle Recreation Commission will not exceed the revenue neutral rate for fiscal year 2026-27 and plans to adopt a budget within the 2.000 mill levy rate with revenues estimated

at \$108,679. The budget hearing and adoption is slated for the September 2, 2026, regular meeting.

E. Old Business
Recreation Director Mauk reported that he heard back from Luke with the Dodge City Country Club about Ladies Golf Camp/Lessons. The instructor would charge \$20/hour and prefers groups of five participants per time slot.

F. New Business
None.

G. Recreation Director update

Recreation Director Mauk reported that football starts in one week, with the first games of the season coming up at the end of August. He stated he has received 13 signups for the 5th-6th

grade team and 9 signups so far for 3rd-4th grade team. He's still hoping to get more participants for the 3rd-4th grade age group.

Recreation Director Mauk also announced that at the end of the upcoming school year he is planning to leave his position here and relocate closer to family in Missouri. He mentioned that this was a difficult decision and that he hopes to work with/train the next director before the end of the school year to ensure a smooth transition. The Recreation Commission tabled any discussion of the recruitment process and next steps until all members are present but agreed on the necessity of a public interview process to ensure transparency.

H. Adjournment

ACTION: Motion and second (Strate/Riisoe) to adjourn. The motion passed 4-0 (Frame absent).

Commissioner Castaneda adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

These minutes were approved at the September 2, 2026, Kinsley Offerle Recreation Commission meeting.

Clay Curtin, City Manager
Mark Frame, Chairman

by Gaille Renee Pike



Dear Readers,

For the first time in recent memory, Mother Nature's been in sync with the calendar. Our yard is awash with regal autumn golds and greens. Mornings dawn crisp. Afternoons sun-ripen like apples. Evenings darken before I'm ready. The cooler temperatures are welcome, but even as my feet call for their old sock-friends after snubbing them for months, this sudden summer-giving-way-to-fall feels bittersweet.

I find myself spending more time appreciating my wildflower garden, not just darting out to cut a fresh bouquet every day. And I've made a special effort to get out early in the mornings to make sure I don't morning glory blooms. For a few short hours, they thread like bright cobalt beads all through my eclectic oasis, twining up from the ground round other species and, as I have some that must be over eight feet tall, twisting high above my head.

Several of those other wildflower annuals have completed their cycles. Although they remain stalwartly upright, they are devoid of life. And this week, as I inspected them more closely than I have in weeks, I found myself regretting that I'd not saved the bag that detailed what wildflower seeds I'd sown in bulk. I could easily spot the zinnias, coreopses, coneflowers, verbenas and morning glories but there were two giants I hadn't bothered to identify.

Both had sported flowers too small to pick all summer, but I had sure enjoyed their respective delicate milky and bright yellow blooms. The stem of the one with sunbeam flowers turned into a tree-like trunk and sprouted these strange lantern-looking pods while the white-budded one pushed out tall tips that looked like braided hair. And for months, I gazed at these wondrous plants as if they were roses.

But they are so NOT roses. If you are a K-State extension agent, a farmer, or any Kansan who's the nitwit I am, you already know what I learned today: abutilon theophrasti and palmar amaranth are two of the most aggressive and damaging weed species in Kansas agriculture.

The one with the little yellow flowers and lantern-looking pods is commonly called Velvetleaf (doesn't that sound pretty?). Abutilon theophrasti arrived in this country from Asia in the 18th century as a competitor to hemp but it never caught on. Each plant can drop around 8,000 seeds that can stay fertile for fifty years. Velvetleaf is particularly harmful in fields of corn and soybeans, especially during critical grain-filling stages.

Palmar amaranth, the one with the pretty braids and white blooms, is considered the worst of the worst of the pigweed species. It threatens corn, soybeans, sorghum, sunflowers and cotton crops. And it's considered herbicide resistant.

I'd like to think I'm not the only one who accidentally propagated more of both these species this summer. The whole reason I planted a wildflower garden was so that I would not have to weed it. Seems to me that my laziness is the real menace.

Until next week—keep your eyes on the stars and your back to the wind.

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