

Town Of Cortland
Town hall
59 S. Somonauk Road
Cortland, IL 60112
Park Advisory Committee
Minutes
June 10, 2025
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order / Roll Call

Committee Chair, Ms. Fioretto called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. Ms. Fioretto called the roll. Shown as present were committee members Trent Moser, Angel Mendez, Josh Orr, Liz Botts, Mariann Kaminski, and Curtis Kouba. Committee member Michelle Bergeson was absent. Quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

Ms. Kaminski moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Kouba. A unanimous voice vote carried the motion.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Fioretto asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2025. Ms. Bergeson moved to approve, seconded by Mr. Moser. A unanimous vote carried the motion.

Hearing of Staff/Citizens

Mr. Bill Abbott was invited to speak at the meeting by Park Committee member Ms. Kaminski. Mr. Abbott shared that he has lived in Cortland since 1972. He served on the Cortland Fire Department for 30 years, has been a member of the Cortland Lions Club for 51 years, and has been actively involved with multiple local food pantries. He also served two terms on the Town Board and currently delivers food to 15–20 residents who are unable to leave their homes. The entire committee thanked Mr. Abbott for his long-standing dedication and service to the town and its residents.

New Business for Discussion and Possible Action

There was no new business.

Unfinished Business for Discussion and Possible Action

Discussion of park names for unnamed parks as presented to the town board May 12, 2025

After thorough discussion, the Park Committee has selected recommended names for the currently unnamed parks:

- **Ohio Grove Park** – for the park located off Blue Bell Street, named in honor of the first hotel in Cortland.

Approved: CF 7-15-2025

- **Walnut Park** – for the park off Walnut Street, with the suggestion that walnut trees be planted there to reflect the name.
- **Prairieview Park** – chosen for the park near the elementary school and Dragon Tail Pond, as the committee felt the name suited the landscape and surroundings.
- **Legacy Park In Honor of Bill Abbott**– for the future park behind the new police station and eventual town hall, named in honor of Bill Abbott and his many years of service to the community.

These are the official recommendations of the Park Committee for naming the town's unnamed parks.

Discussion of Phases for Cortland Community Park Event Space

No discussion was made on this topic tonight. The committee decided to table it too another week.

Idea Gathering for the Future of Cortland Community Parks

The committee discussed the possibility of placing temporary soccer nets in the open field across from Suppleland Park, allowing the space to be used for recreation until a permanent use is determined.

Concerns were also raised about conditions at Hetchler Park, where bird droppings have heavily soiled all the picnic tables, creating an unsanitary and unpleasant environment. While someone has since cleaned the tables, the committee asked if any measures could be taken to deter birds from nesting in the pavilion and causing similar issues in the future. They noted that if this problem occurs at Hetchler Park, it's likely to affect other parks as well.

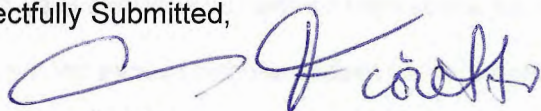
Additionally, the committee noted that a few recently planted trees have gone missing, completely removed from the ground. It is unclear whether they were taken by residents or removed for another reason.

Adjournment

Chair Fioretto asked if there was any additional business to discuss. The committee suggested inviting Joel and Brandy to the next Park Committee meeting. Chair Fioretto agreed and stated that she would extend the invitation.

With no other topics brought forward, Chair Fioretto proposed adjourning the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Mendez and seconded by Mr. Moser. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,



Charmaine Fioretto
Cortland Town Trustee
Cortland Park Advisory Committee Chair

Approved: 7-15-2025