



Parks and Recreation Board Minutes DRAFT
Wednesday, October 15, 2025 – 5:30 pm
Cravath Lakefront Room
312 W. Whitewater Street
Whitewater, WI 53190
Hybrid Meeting

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Present: Chad Ahrens, Mike Dowden, Kathleen Flemming, Neil Hicks, Mike Kilar, Steve Ryan, Deb Weberpal.

Absent: Dan Fuller, Stephanie Hicks

Staff: Kevin Boehm, Jennifer Jackson, Michelle Dujardin

Guest: Samuel Karns

2. Approval of Agenda

Motioned by Neil Hicks. Seconded by Steve Ryan. Chad Ahrens, Kathleen Flemming, Neil Hicks, Mike Kilar, Steve Ryan, Deb Weberpal.

Absent: Dan Fuller, Stephanie Hicks, Mike Dowden

a. Hearing of Citizen Comments

b. No Citizen Comments

3. Staff Updates

a. Director's Report

i. Kevin Boehm

1. Flag football wrapped up the weekend of October 11 & 12. We got the kids reversible jerseys this year instead of t-shirts. Enrollment up 21% from the previous years.
2. Park and Rec took over food truck festival this year. Attendance was down but it was still a great time.
3. One of our goals is to be inclusive to all members of our community. We have been promoting programs in Spanish, our software translates into over 300 languages, Michael Maas met with the school district on how to better serve the community.
4. Michelle Dujardin and Jennifer Jackson attended the National Park and Recreation conference in September 2025
 - a. Our department was recognized by the NRPA
 - i. The grant was focusing on older adults and intergenerational programming. Around Fall of 2023

Michelle Dujardin and Jennifer Jackson was a part of the initial research study about our programs. They also interviewed some seniors from our center as well. We were able to see what the other communities in the research did along with present on our programs.

5. Dujardin: Cormorant and swan on Cravath Lakefront. swans were put out to keep geese away. Some were taken out during the 4th of July but one was left. Cormorants are usually on larger lakes and farther south. This Cormorant is out there every day on the swan, drying out his wings, fishing and eating them.
6. Thursday, November 6, 5:00 pm at Trippe lake will be a memorial bench dedication for Jim Allen

4. Considerations/Discussions/Reports

- a. Discussion on SEWRPC Aquatic Plant Management Plan
 - i. **Dujardin:** this was approved previously then it went to council and they also approved it. This is the final plan with pictures and all information. It is posted on Park and Rec website and will go to council in November with a recap of what it was in the recommendations for moving forward. Waiting to take it to council until there is a budget approval.
 - ii. **Boehm:** This is a key component to the comprehensive lake management plan.
 - iii. **Dujardin:** which should be done in 2027
- b. Update on the future of the Ice Rink at Big Brick Park
 - i. **Boehm:** Last year between streets and park maintenance we spent about \$3,200 to put up the rink and it was not open for 1 day. The year before it was about the same cost and opened only for 3 days. If we do put a new icerink in it will require a new liner this is between \$2,500 and \$3,500. My recommendation is we skip a year and if it is a huge community concern, maybe we look at artificial ice.
 1. **Fleming:** Can you use normal skates on artificial ice?
 2. **Boehm:** Yes, you can
 3. **Ryan:** Do we know about how many people use the rink when it is open?
 4. **Boehm:** I don't know the last time it was staffed?
 5. **Jackson:** It was staffed winter of 2021
 6. **Boehm:** I get about 2-3 phone calls a winter about it
 7. **Dujardin:** If staffed we would have a tally of who was there. A lot of people also used it when staff wasn't there.
 8. **Ryan:** are we talking dozens or hundreds?
 9. **Boehm:** dozens or less
 10. **Kilar:** I agree, go a year and see if there is interest in having it.
 11. **Ryan:** Is there a conscious to wait a year and come back to it

12. All in agreement to not put it up for a year.

c. Update on the use of the Armory Gym for adult open gym basketball

- i. **Boehm:** since the early 80s there have been groups using the armory gym for open gym basketball on Sunday and Tuesday nights. Earlier this spring 2025 we closed down open gym due to rules not being followed and said we would revisit it in the fall. I have been receiving calls about starting up open gym again. I have been working with Michael Maas on what to do. If we have an open gym it will be staffed. We are also looking at offering 3v3 leagues as well.

d. Discussion and possible action on the Recreational Program Fee Policy

- i. **Boehm:** Looking at communities in the area their percentage for out of town participants is 10-15% for non-resident fee. Ours is now also 10% instead of 25%. We are not going to increase fees we will decrease the fees for residents. It is now outlined for the 25% increase for month to month which is what we are currently charging. We have 3 different fees out at the WAFC, monthly, annual paid in full, and annual paid monthly (no additional fee for this).
 1. **Ryan:** Can you go over the \$100 cancelation fee?
 2. **Boehm:** if they cancel their annual contract membership they would be charged \$100. It is currently \$150. As of right now we do not charge anything since there isn't an actual contract.
 3. **Hicks:** If you pay annual it is all up front?
 4. **Boehm:** if you want to pay a year in full, yes. If you do a monthly draft it is the full membership price but charged monthly.
 5. **Hicks:** You are getting the savings of an annual but you are not paying an annual. I wonder if we need a penalty in case someone backs out of the monthly draft instead of the annual membership. We already have all of the money from those who pay up front. The ones on the monthly draft set up could come for a month then back out but we thought we would get the full annual amount.
 6. **Dowden:** I agree that if I see the \$100 fee I may think twice on what I purchase and how I pay. I may think I will pay the annual billed monthly to get the discount but end after 6 months with no penalty until I see the cancelation fee. I may then decide to pay all up front.
 7. **Boehm:** Do you think we need to increase the fee for annual billed monthly instead of just the annual divided by 12.
 8. **Ryan:** I agree put in the added price for those paying monthly for an annual membership. This may encourage people to pay up front in full. \
 9. **No action was taken due to some of the price changes. This will be brought back another month.**

Mike Dowden left at 6:11pm

e. Discussion and possible action on approving the 2026-2030 Park and Open Space Plan

- i. **Boehm:** This is the final version unless there are any changes needed to be made. I am noticing the page numbers need to be respaced. With park board approval it will go to the PARC with that approval it will go to common council. After their approval it will be submitted to the DNR. After that we can apply for state grants.

Motioned by Deb Weberpal to approve the Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan for 2026-2030 with the changes to the page numbers. Seconded by Neil Hicks. Ayes: Chad Ahrens, Kathleen Flemming, Neil Hicks, Mike Kilar, Steve Ryan, Deb Weberpal.

Absent: Dan Fuller, Stephanie Hicks, Mike Dowden

- f. Discussion and possible action to recommend to the Common Council approval of an application to the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) Grants for local Projects program for the creation of a splash pad at Starin park.
 - i. **Boehm:** This grant is for shovel ready projects. This program opened up mid-September, in 2024 the state funded 15 projects throughout the state that were not using any state funds for construction. The deadline is October 31. The splash pad could be shovel ready.
 - ii. **Hicks:** Could you define shovel ready?
 - iii. **Boehm:** The project has architectural drawings. I will be bringing to city council, with your blessing hopefully, a resolution next Tuesday 10/21 to explain why we are looking to have the splash pad at Starin park and why we are looking to build a splash pad.

Motion by Neil Hicks to approve the support for submission of the City's grant application for the Wisconsin DOA non state grant programming for the Starin Park Splash Pad. Second by Deb Weberpal. Ayes: Chad Ahrens, Kathleen Flemming, Neil Hicks, Mike Kilar, Steve Ryan, Deb Weberpal.

Absent: Dan Fuller, Stephanie Hicks, Mike Dowden

5. Future Agenda Items

- a. **Setting a date for Treyton's Field Spring Cleanup 2026**
- b. **Aquatic Center Signage and Lighting by the tennis courts.**

6. Adjournment

- a. **Adjournment at 6:45 pm**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Jackson
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