



Winnebago County

*The Wave of the Future*

**PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026**

**A. Call to Order**

*Supervisor Binner called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.*

**B. Adopt Agenda**

*Motion by Doug Nelson, seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to Approve Adopt Agenda. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0*

**C. Approval of Minutes**

1. Approval of the Parks Commission Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2025

*Motion by Doug Nelson, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve Approval of the Parks Commission Meeting Minutes of December 9, 2025. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0*

**D. Public Comments on Agenda Items**

*No comments.*

**E. Business Items**

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Presentation - Commendation for David Binner - Parks Caretaker

*Director Breest read the commendation for Dave Binner.*

*Supervisor Binner worked with Dave at the Highway Department and commended him for how he took care of the equipment.*

*Supervisor Dowling joined the meeting during the discussion.*

2. Authorize the Winnebago County Parks Department to Apply for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Snowmobile Grant for the 2026-2027 Season.

*Director Breest briefly explained the annual grant process with DNR for the 2026-27 seasonal maintenance of county snowmobile trails. The anticipated grant amount is \$43,380.*

*Motion by Rachael Dowling, seconded by Doug Nelson to Approve Authorize the Winnebago County Parks Department to Apply for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Snowmobile Grant for the 2026-2027 Season. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0*

3. Approval of a Maintenance Easement for the Electrical Service located at the Sunnyview Exposition Center.

*Director Breest explained that this easement allows WPS to access the substation when repairs or improvements are needed, especially in cases of emergency.*

*Motion by Doug Nelson, seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to Approve Approval of a Maintenance Easement for the Electrical Service located at the Sunnyview Exposition Center. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0*

4. Modify "Chapter 19.12 Special Event Fees" to Grant Authorization for the Winnebago County Parks Department to Charge a Fee for Parking During Special Events within Community Park  
*Director Breest gave an update on the proposed modifications after the December Parks Commission discussion. Director Breest proposed that parks staff will only work with United Soccer and possible Oshkosh Rugby during the first year of the new special event parking fee. This would act as a trial run in 2026. The Parks Department would then work with the other special events to plan for 2027. The Parks Department would report back to the Parks Commission at the end of 2026.*

*Supervisor Nelson would like it implemented for the Hmong Festivals and Lifest in 2027.*

*Supervisor Binner would like to see this get passed by the County Board. It's a good option for the large events that take place in the park. Additional funds are needed for continuous improvements to the park.*

*Supervisor Dowling introduced the following amendments.*

**Resolution** - Modify Line 20 to state: WHEREAS, the County Board directs that any special-event parking charge authorized by this amendment shall not exceed \$5 per vehicle (or the Wisconsin DNR state park vehicle daily admission fee, whichever is less);

**Code - Chapter 19.12f** - The Parks Director and County Executive have permission to work with event organizers to charge a parking fee at the Community Park for special event parking. This fee may not exceed \$5 per vehicle (or the Wisconsin DNR state park vehicle daily admission fee, whichever is less). The fee may be charged at the park or in advance. Winnebago County staff will work with each special event to determine the best fit for that event. Access to a reasonable amount of parking within the Community Park must be available during the special event for the general public at no cost.

*Motion by Rachael Dowling to amend the proposal as outlined. Seconded by Doug Nelson. Motion carried 5-0.*

*Motion by Doug Nelson, seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to Approve Modify "Chapter 19.12 Special Event Fees" to Grant Authorization for the Winnebago County Parks Department to Charge a Fee for Parking During Special Events within Community Park including the two amendments.*

*Motion by Doug Nelson to approved the ordinance modifications with the amendment. Seconded by Larry Lautenschlager. Motion Carried. Yes 4, No 1, Abstained 0*

5. **Parks Department Contingency Fund Request - Repair to Equipment - Toolcat Utility Vehicle Repair**

*Director Breest said one of the Toolcats needs extensive repairs. These repairs are outside the ordinary amount. Repairing the Toolcat is in the best interest of the Parks Department.*

*Motion by Larry Lautenschlager, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve **Parks Department Contingency Fund Request - Repair to Equipment - Toolcat Utility Vehicle Repair**. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0*

## **F. Director's Report**

1. Department Updates from Director Adam Breest
  - Sunnyview Exposition Center West Campus Improvement Project
  - Community Park Shelter 1 and 2 Project
  - Covered Arena Painting and Insulation Project

- Butte des Morts Boat Landing Improvement Project
- Parks Spirit Fund Project Update
- Sunnyview Exposition Center Sign Update
- Community Park Entrance Sign Project
- Shelter 1 Playground Replacement
- Other General Updates

*Director Breest gave a department update...*

*Ken Robl: Fish results from DNR survey indicated plenty of fish in the pond, many of them are large fish. Will get more clarification from DNR on next steps.*

*Butte des Morts Boat Landing: The project went out for bid on 1/12.*

*Sunnyview Expo Project: Hoping to have some electrical work done next, and move the osprey nest.*

*Community Park Shelter 2: Working on columns*

*Covered Arena: Going out to bid soon*

*Community Park Entry Signs: Will be installed by the end of the month.*

*Working on 2025 annual report.*

*Spirit Fund: Wiouwash Trail, setting up meetings with community groups for funding, separating project into sections. Community Park, still doing survey work, will meet with groups once probable costs are established.*

*The new parks caretaker started yesterday, Geoff Goodermuth. Terry Krauss is switching to full-time parks caretaker in February. Staff have interviews for temporary positions this week.*

*The Parks Department should be fully staffed by March/April. Currently, 7 of 8 seasonal staff from last year are planning to come back this year.*

#### **G. Communications Shared by Commission Members**

*Supervisor Dowling said the department is doing a good job at hosting events at Sunnyview. She is drafting a resolution to keep the money earned from the events at Sunnyview in the Parks Department rather than going into the general fund. Encouraged other commission members to support the resolution.*

*Supervisor Binner would like staff to check on seal coating for the Community Parks and the trail on Hwy A. Ask Highway if we can bid it out, and then have them pay for it.*

#### **H. Next Meeting Date**

*Tuesday, February 10, at 8 a.m.*

#### **I. Items for Next Agenda**

*Suggestions from committee members for items to be addressed on a future agenda*

*No comments.*

#### **J. Adjourn**

*Motion by Doug Nelson, seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to Adjourn. Yes 4, No 1, Abstained 0*

*The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.*

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