



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Chair Powers called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM. Larry Lautenschlager was excused. All other members were in attendance.

B. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Doug Nelson, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve Adopt Agenda. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Parks Commission Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2026

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by Doug Nelson to Approve Approval of the Parks Commission Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2026. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comments.

E. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Approve \$129,391.00 Budget Amendment request for the Butte des Morts Boat Landing 2026 Capital Project

Director Breest gave a review of the amendment request. Staff received three bids for the project. Two bids were in budget, but very tight, with only 2% contingency. Northeast Asphalt was the low bid.

The \$129K would put us at 8% contingency. Without it, the plan would be to remove a dock at the landing and not fix the shelter. Staff would prefer to include these items in the project.

P&F has already approved the amendment request.

According to the contractors, de-watering really didn't save much on the overall cost of the project.

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by Rachael Dowling, to Approve \$129,391.00 Budget Amendment request for the Butte des Morts Boat Landing 2026 Capital Project. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

2. Authorization to Apply for and Accept a Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the WIOUWASH Trail Project

Director Breest said he submitted the grant, which was due March 1. It's for a recreation trails program stewardship fund, which could be up to \$100,000. It's a good opportunity to raise funds for the trail project. The grant does require a resolution, similar to other DNR grants.

Motion by Rachael Dowling, seconded by Steve Binder, to Approve Authorization to Apply for

and Accept a Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the WIOUWASH Trail Project. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

3. Presentation - Initial Cost Estimates and Designs for the Community Park Spirit Fund Projects
Director Breest gave a presentation on initial cost estimates and designs for the Community Park Spirit Fund project. He has meetings set up to discuss the project with user groups: soccer, rugby, and pickleball.

Soccer Complex: West side grades are good, proposing to top-dress some fields, mass grading, and drainage improvements. East side, more drainage issues on this side, some mass grading needed, top-dressing, restoration.

Rugby: Top-dressing field 1 and 2, field 3 and premier fields would be mass graded and restored, fence around premier field, press box, potential bleachers, and increase the size of the parking lot. Move the concession shelter/shelter 3 to the other side, with the playground to the south.

Pickleball: Eight-court complex, plaza in the middle, estimating for lighting, would still have two tennis courts and a basketball court.

Supervisor Dowling said we need to think about all users of the park and not just the groups who have money. Obligation to provide safe soccer and rugby fields for players. Moms need more places to take their children.

Supervisor Nelson said the large price numbers are concerning; pickleball has become very popular. Fundraising is a very important part of the project. Can we get any funds from the Oshkosh CVB?

Executive Hintz said there is a difference between a tournament soccer field that is used by people throughout the Fox Valley and pickleball courts, which are used by local residents. Need to prioritize, do projects in phases, and maximize fundraising.

Supervisor Binder would like the existing pickleball/tennis courts fixed up, but would need to see a big fundraising effort to build more. Soccer and rugby fields need to be leveled for these large tournaments that are coming to Winnebago County. We need to have good fields, so people can play and not get hurt.

Bob Albright thinks fundraising efforts can make a big impact. We need to prioritize these projects and keep things moving forward. The sooner the better.

Chair Powers wants to see these user groups actively fundraising.

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 an update review...

Expo West campus construction will pick up in April. Plan to have it done before Lifest.

Shelter 1 & 2 construction fixes should be done this week.

Covered Arena: Received bids last week, roofing bid came in budget, six bids, could be done by the end of April. The painting portion of the project received only two bids - one had to be thrown out. The bidder was higher than the entire project. Calling other contractors. Could allow the painting project to go into 2027 to get more bidders.

Expo Sign: Contractor is working to finalize contract items with Lamar, looking for summer installation.

Waiting on the weather for playground installation at Shelter 1.

Have been interviewing temp caretakers, might have a good option. Fully staffed by mid-March. A lot of good candidates this round, and filled positions quickly.

Community Park Trees: The USDA contractor has finished taking down trees in the park. Staff is doing brush cleanup.

Sweeping the Tribal Bridge as soon as the weather permits.

G. Communications Shared by Commission Members

Supervisor Binder wants to see the manhole cover lowered.

Supervisor Dowling is wondering if the new expo sign on Jackson will be similar to the new expo signs on County Rd Y.

H. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, April 14 at 8 a.m.

There were questions about whether the Commission can have a meeting after the election. Chair Powers will look into it and confirm.

I. Items for Next Agenda

*Suggestions from committee members for items to be addressed on a future agenda
Percentage rate/donation match rate for fundraising.*

J. Adjourn

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by Doug Nelson, to Adjourn. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

[MIN FOOT]