



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2026**

A. Call to Order

Director Breest called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

B. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Karen Powers, seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to amend the agent to move item E-1 before item C. Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0

Motion by Doug Nelson, seconded by Larry Lautenschlager, to Adopt Agenda as Amended. Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Parks Commission Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by Doug Nelson to Approve Approval of the Parks Commission Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2026. Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Tim Irman, Resident, member of Pickle Ball Club - Spoke in support of a lighted pickleball complex at the park. Only one lighted place to play pickleball in the area, which is always full. High demand for another lighted complex.

Bruce Abraham, Resident, member of Pickle Ball Club - A new plan for the pickleball complex removes \$150,000 from the project cost. Spoke in support of an allocation increase. The Pickleball group was asked to raise 73% for the project. The club is asking for \$300,000 to put toward the project, making it a 48% allocation, with fundraising at 52%.

Bill Blake, Resident, Oshkosh Youth Rugby and Men's Rugby - Spoke in support of having quality rugby fields for the safety of players. The rugby complex touches a lot of the community, from school-aged on up.

Matt Stenerson, Resident, Executive Director of Oshkosh Youth Rugby - The rugby complex at County Park is the only one like it in the entire county. It hosts numerous tournaments, with teams coming from outside the county and around the country; and even a team from Thailand.

Scott Yanke, Appleton - Rugby at County Park started in 1978. Rugby has been important to our local youth for many years. Tournaments bring money into the community.

Amy Albright, Resident, OCVB Director - County Park is a popular destination for the area. The CVB supports the investments being presented and wants to see the park continue to be a thriving destination.

E. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Election of Officers: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary

Motion by Karen Powers, seconded by Steve Binder, to approve Larry Lautenschlager as Chair. Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0

Motion by Karen Powers, seconded by Doug Nelson, to approve Steve Binder as Vice Chair. Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0

Motion by Karen Powers, seconded by Steve Binder, to approve James Ponzer as Secretary. Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0

2. Discussion and Possible Action on the Community Park Spirit Fund Project Allocation Requests

Director Breest gave an overview of the plan documents.

Rugby: Phase 1 included removing the softball field, reorient the rugby field, and a making premier field. Phase 2 includes adding a fourth field, expanding parking lot. Phase 3 & 4 include topdressing and fixing the condition of fields 1 and 2, lighting, bleachers, and fencing.

Pickleball: Phase 1 includes removing sport court surface, restoring to asphalt and adding 8 pickleball courts to north of sport court. Phase 2 includes lighting for courts. The Pickleball Clubs requested that both phases done at same time. Phase 3 & 4 would include a new shelter and more courts.

Soccer: Phase 1 includes fixing fields and water issues on east side and grading. There could be a cost saving if soccer and rugby do projects at the same time, by using topsoil from one area to another.

Phase 2 includes the quad area, additional topsoil, and an extra field.

Both the soccer and rugby groups want better playing surfaces. It's a priority to fix what we have, and then add to it.

The South softball diamond was not used at all last year.

Supervisor Nelson asked about when the projects will end. With limited space, we can only do so much. Mentioned that new lighting with LED can help save some money, compared to old lighting.

Supervisor Binder stated that it takes about \$70k to level a soccer field, and we need to plan a budget in order to maintain the fields yearly. Asked about reusing softball lighting, which could be a possibility.

Director Breest said maintenance is a top priority of staff to make sure what we have is maintained properly. This includes aerating, fertilizer, raking, irrigation. The new parking fees will be used to help maintain the park.

Supervisor Dowling asked if we had a dollar amount for how much someone needed in order to build something at the park. Staff does not have a number at this time.

Director Breest gave a background of goals for the park system. Goals include creating resiliency, addressing current maintenance issues, reducing long-term maintenance and staff time, providing open space for residents, providing water access, and providing more capacity for users.

The proposed park areas have been surveyed, staff has met with user groups, and verified pricing. Some projects could start in late 2026 or spring 2027.

All of these projects are estimated at \$5. The Parks Department has \$1.9 million on hand.

Supervisor Binder wants to make sure these groups have the option to offer up naming rights for park fields/facilities. There is a process set up for this.

Bob Albright was concerned that the commission couldn't 100% guarantee naming rights. Koby Schellenger said something that could be set up within the county to offer that guarantee.

Supervisor Powers is in favor of offering naming rights. She had to leave the meeting at 9:06.

Supervisor Dowling is in support of naming rights. She would like to work with the executive office to get something coordinated. She raised concerns about the clubs having to raise a lot of money and whether or not that impacts the start of these projects. There is some flexibility in this, and more money is available for the first phase to get the ball rolling.

Director Breest reviewed the budget allocation for the three groups.

Supervisor Binder asked if the resurfacing of the sports court would be done this year. It would be ideal if the resurfacing could be combined with the new pickleball courts.

Motion by Rachel Dowling, seconded by Doug Nelson, to approve funding for the Soccer and Rugby projects at the Winnebago County Community Park from the Parks Department Spirit Fund Allotment for a period of 3 years. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

Supervisor Dowling stated she does not support pickleball courts and would rather see the funds used for the other groups. The maintenance for the pickleball courts costs a lot of money.

Bob Albright commented that soccer and rugby are more youth-oriented.

Motion by Doug Nelson, second by Steve Binder, to approve funding, as presented, for the pickleball project at the Winnebago County Community Park from the Parks Department Spirit Fund Allotment for a period of 3 years. Seconded by Steve Binder. Yes 5, No 1, Abstained 0

3. Authorize the County Executive to Enter into a Multi-Year Agreement with the Winnebago County Fair Association for the Winnebago County Fair
Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by Doug Nelson to Approve Authorize the County Executive to Enter into a Multi-Year Agreement with the Winnebago County Fair Association for the Winnebago County Fair. Yes 5, No 1, Abstained 0

F. Director's Report

1. Department Updates from Director Adam Breest

- Sunnyview Exposition Center West Campus Improvement Project
- Covered Arena Painting and Insulation Project
- Butte des Morts Boat Landing Improvement Project
- Parks Spirit Fund Project Update
- Sunnyview Exposition Center Sign Update
- Shelter 1 Playground Replacement
- Asylum Bay Rip Rap Project
- Poygan Boat Ramp
- Other General Updates

Director Breest gave department updates...

Sunnyview Parking Lot - nearing completion, pushing for pavement to be completed in the next couple of weeks. Asking Lifest and Fair to move some things around this year to protect the new parking lot.

Covered Arena - roof repair started last week.

*Butte des Morts Boat Landing - project is on track to start July 5.
All park staff are up and running. Cut one season staff this year and added two shoulder season staff.
Asylum rip rap - would like to do the project in late summer if possible
Wiouwash Trail had some washouts.
Playground at shelter #1 is starting this week.
Poygan boat ramp repair will go out to bid this summer.
Students from Communities at Oshkosh North are hosting a ribbon-cutting for their dog park project on Thursday, May 14, at 1:30, at the Best Friends Dog Park. The public is welcome.*

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supervisor Nelson commented on park signs.

Supervisor Binder wants to see some flowers at the arch this year. He asked if someone could be hired to plant flowers. Park staff have tried natives and grape vines. The planter beds are not deep enough and dry out quickly, which makes it difficult to grow plants.

H. Next Meeting Date

Koby Schellenger said P&F has moved back a few days and suggested meeting on the first or last week of the month in order to be more efficient.

Motion made by Bob Albright, seconded by Doug Nelson, to approve moving the Commission meetings to the first Tuesday of each month. Yes 6, No 0, Abstain 0

Next meeting date is Tuesday, June 2, 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 Steve Binder to Adjourn. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

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