



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2024**

A. Call to Order

Chair (NAME) called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

B. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve Adopt Agenda. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Parks & Recreation Minutes 11.12.2024

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by Joshua Belville to Approve Parks & Recreation Minutes 11.12.2024. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comment.

E. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

No comment.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Authorization for the Development of a Hmong Veterans Memorial at Winnebago County Community Park

Hmong Service Center Board President, Mee Yang, discussed a plan to install a Hmong Veterans Memorial at County Park in the soccer complex by the kiosk. The memorial will commemorate the Secret War. The potential opening date would be August 30, 2025. Hmong Service Center hosts Memorial and Labor Day Festivals at the County Park. The Hmong Service Center will cover the cost, about \$30-\$40k. A 10' x 10' area is needed for the memorial, about 5-6' high, and maybe some additional lighting.

Director Breest said parks staff will remove a few ash trees and improve the kiosk. With plans to install a camera on the corner of the shelter and add lighting.

The committee likes the idea of a memorial. Hmong Service Center will need to have a maintenance agreement with the County in case of vandalism to the memorial, maybe establish a trust. The committee wants to approve the final design.

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by Rachael Dowling to Approve Authorization for the Development of a Hmong Veterans Memorial at Winnebago County Community Park, subject to the approval of the design and a maintenance agreement. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

2. Discussion on Sunnyview Expo Center Sign Project

County Executive Assistant, Ethan Hollenburger, discussed the sign, which the County Board approved in 2023, and issues with zoning. The County has received some push-back from the Town of Oshkosh. The County can re-zone the property as a park district, which would allow the sign. Through this process, other county-owned property would be re-zoned as park districts. The Community Park and Finch Dog Park will not be a part of the re-zoning at this time. Wants approval from the Parks Committee before pursuing this option. The next step is to draft the ordinance.

Committee members said the Town of Oshkosh Chairman has not been receptive to discussions and the County should proceed with re-zoning the property.

Rachael Dowling arrived to the meeting at 8:04 a.m.

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by Joshua Belville to approve County-wide park district re-zoning. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

G. Director's Report

1. Parks Director Project Updates

Director Breest discussed the following:

County-wide boat launch permit - working to get area directors together for a discussion.

Shelters 1 & 2 renovations starting in April and should be complete by Memorial Day.

Working on the Sunnyview parking lot project - finalizing site plans and design, bid opening in February.

County Park paving - most lots are done, will do more in the spring.

Covered Arena - no RFP yet, would like to have one by late-Jan/Feb.

Need to go out for a new mowing proposal - the previous company had to raise their prices.

Offering winter storage on Expo Grounds.

Working on engineering proposals for the Lake Butte des Mort Boat Landing.

Waukau Creek Dam - received an approved permit, getting bid date set for construction, hoping to start in May.

Looking into options for new park and expo signs/design.

2. 2024 Trail and Boat Landing Counter Numbers

Reviewed counter numbers for the county trails and boat landings. May, June, and July are the busiest months. The Allenville trail head is seeing a lot of use, as well as Asylum Bay and the lighthouse.

3. 2024 Ken Robl Park Report

Director Breest reviewed maintenance done by the park staff at Ken Robl Park. Park staff planted about 20 trees this year, which were paid for by Solid Waste. Tree guards we installed around all the trees. Highway lined the parking lot, there was a BAGO activity in March, and the pond was treated. Doing fish inventory. Might remove a small trail down to the pond.

Josh Belville left the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

4. 2024 Boat Landing Daily and Annual Pass Review

Director Breest reviewed boat launch revenue. Revenue was up about \$21k from last year.

H. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supervisor Binder asked about the willow tree at the Lake Poygan Boat Landing. Director Breest said the homeowner does not want to cut down the tree, and we are considering moving the light pole to the other side of the landing.

I. Next Meeting Date

January 14 at 8 a.m. at the Coughlin Building.

J. Items for Next Agenda

Suggestions from committee members for items to be addressed on a future agenda
Possibly review designs for the Hmong Veterans Memorial.

K. Adjourn

Motion by Rachael Dowling, seconded by Steve Binder to Approve Adjourn. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 a.m.