



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2025**

A. Call to Order

Chair Powers called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

B. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve Adopt Agenda. . Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Parks Committee Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2024

Change (NAME) to Powers in the December 10 Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve Approval of the Parks Committee Meeting Minutes from December 10, 2024. . Yes 5, 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. Authorize the Winnebago County to Apply for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Snowmobile Grant for the 2025-2026 Season.

Director Breest gave a brief overview of the DNR snowmobile grant for the 2025-26 season.

Motion by Joshua Belville, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve Authorize the Winnebago County to Apply for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Snowmobile Grant for the 2025-2026 Season.. . Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

2. Review of Chapter 19 of the Winnebago County Code and the Creation of a Winnebago County Park District and Parks Commission

County Executive Assistant, Ethan Hollenberger, informed the committee that a seven member parks commission needs to be created in order to be in compliance with state law. He will draft a proposal with the feedback he gets from the committee.

For the members of the new commission, the committee would like the additional two members to be citizens and wants to have members from other communities represented, if possible.

Ethan also presented the initial draft of the creation of a Park District per the Parks and Recreation Committee's request at the December 10 Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting. The consensus from the committee was to hold a public hearing at the February Parks and Recreation Committee meeting on the creation of a Parks District.

Motion by Rachael Dowling, seconded by Joshua Belville to Approve the Review of Chapter 19 of the Winnebago County Code and for the County Executive Office to draft a resolution for review of the Creation of a Winnebago County Park District and Parks Commission. . Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

3. Design Concept for the Development of a Hmong Veterans Memorial at Winnebago County Community Park

Hmong Service Center Board President, Mee Yang, discussed the wording and visual of the proposed memorial planned for the Community Park. The monument will center around the image of Phou Pha Thi Mountain in Laos, a significant location during the Secret War. The memorial will be black and white in color and will measure about 4' wide x 8' tall. She is fine tuning some details yet. A final rendering of the memorial will be presented to the committee when it's ready this year. The committee, staff, and Ms. Yang discussed possible locations for the memorial.

The memorial is on the consent agenda for the next County Board meeting on January 21. Mee Yang will attend the meeting. She stressed the importance of keeping the project moving forward so the memorial can be completed in time for the Labor Day Festival.

G. Director's Report

1. Parks Director Project Updates

Director Breest discussed the following:

Shelter 1 and 2 - Signed contract with contractor, will start this winter and finish by Memorial Day.

West Campus Engineering - Going out to bid in a week or two, construction starts in August.

Waukau Dam - Will be publicly posted and out to bid this week. Bids will be due in February.

Surveying work has started at Lake Butte des Morts boat landing

Spirit fund - Moving forward with soliciting consultant for projects

Buoy proposals received. This will be awarded this week.

H. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supervisor Ponzer asked about the county-wide boat launch permit. Director Breest said he will be meeting with Brown County director to discuss what they do at the end of the month.

Supervisor Binder asked about putting handles on boat dock mooring posts and tie-offs. Would like to see the new parking lots at County Park get sealed.

I. Next Meeting Date

February 11 at 8 a.m. at the JP Coughlin Building.

J. Items for Next Agenda

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

Tour of the buoys with the Sheriff's Department.

K. Adjourn

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve Adjourn. . Yes 3, No 0, Abstained 0

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.