



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

A. Call to Order

Chair Powers called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM.

Meeting attendees include: Karen Powers, Steve Binder, James Ponzer, Josh Belville, Rachael Dowling, Adam Breest, Justin DeJager, Rick Helms, Ethan Hollenberger, Mee Yang.

B. Adopt Agenda

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

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes from the January 14, 2025 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
Attendees at the January 14, 2025 committee meeting include: Karen Powers, Steve Binder, James Ponzer, Josh Belville, Rachael Dowling, Adam Breest, Justin DeJager, Kyle Vergin, Rick Helms, Ethan Hollenberger, Mee Yang.

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve Approval of the Minutes from the January 14, 2025 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting. . Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comments.

E. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

No comments.

F. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

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

Mee Yang, Hmong Service Center Board President, discussed the design concept of the memorial. The title and script have been proofed and completed. She will now move forward with the order. Goal is to have it complete in June/July and installed before the Labor Day Festival. She will be meeting with park staff to confirm location of memorial and to work on a maintenance agreement.

The committee liked the design and appreciated Mee's efforts putting everything together.

2. Update - Creation of a Winnebago County Park District

Ethan Hollenberger, County Executive Assistant, discussed the creation of a Winnebago County park district. He presented a draft ordinance for the creation of a Parks District within Chapter 19. All County-Owned and -Operated areas in Winnebago County would be

incorporated into the park district. The law requires different noticing requirements - notices will be posted at five public places, in 10 towns/cities, throughout the county. A public hearing for the park district will be March 11, during committee meeting.

3. Discussion and Possible Action - Creation of a Parks Commission

Ethan Hollenberger, County Executive Assistant, reviewed the commission draft, which was created based off previous discussions with the committee.

Committee thinks it might be difficult to find people who can meet in the morning for the commission meetings.

Some committee members think the commission should take seven best representatives to fill the positions, regardless of where they live, while other committee member had concerned about having diverse perspectives and a perceived favoritism toward certain cities/towns. Supervisor Binder made a motion to cut 3(c) from the ordinance. Supervisor Ponzer seconded. Motion carried 3-1. Supervisor Dowling opposed.

Committee asked if they can remove someone if they are not participating? Currently, only county executive can remove someone from the committee/commission. Committee agreed to leave decisions about boat launch fees to the County Board.

The committee will not be repealed until the commission is seated. Supervisor Dowling made a motion for the ordinance to take effect on April 15. Supervisor Binder seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Rachael Dowling, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve Discussion and Possible Action - Creation of a Parks Commission. . Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 0

G. Director's Report

1. Parks Director Project Updates

Director Breest discussed the following projects...

Sunnyview Expo Campus improvements are out to bid, due Feb 25.

Due date for the Waukau Dam bids was pushed to Feb 18.

Work on park shelters will start soon.

The public meeting for the Butte des Morts boat landing went well. Main areas to address are dredging and parking.

Oshkosh Docks received the buoy contract, priced for next five years.

Radke received the dock contract.

Parks staff will review mowing contracts soon.

Parks staff had a meeting with area park and rec reps about a county-wide boat launch pass.

It was a good discussion and parks staff will continue to do research.

H. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supervisor Binder would like update on replacing signs coming in/out of the park.

Chair Powers will continue sending texts to committee members about meetings and encouraged members to send her updates as soon as possible if they are not able to attend.

I. Next Meeting Date

March 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

Public hearing for the park district.

K. Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.