



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 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 Joshua Belville to Approve Adopt Agenda. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Minutes from the February 11, 2025 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting

Motion by Rachael Dowling, seconded by Steve Binder to Approve the Minutes from the February 11, 2025 Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting. Yes 4, No 0, Abstained 1

Josh Belville abstained due to not being in attendance at the February 11 committee meeting.

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Bob Jewel (Hartford, WI) spoke about the proposed sign project at Sunnyview. Bob explained that the sign is privately funded, and no taxpayer money is being utilized for the construction or operation of the sign. His company will be paying the County rent for the sign and installing the sign with private funds. There is an agreement that was already approved by the County Board in September of 2023, which states the terms of the agreement including what can/cannot be advertised on the sign.

E. Public Comments within the Jurisdiction of the Committee

No public comments.

F. Public Hearing

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 59.69(9)(a), the Parks Committee is requesting to zone Winnebago County Park and Open Space Property into a parks district. A public hearing is required under the statute prior to committee action on the proposed ordinance change. The notice for the public hearing has been posted in five public places in each town where property is subject to the ordinance.

1. Creation of a Winnebago County Parks District within County Code Chapter 19
Chairman Powers opened the public hearing for the Creation of a Winnebago County Parks District within County Code Chapter 19. Chairman Powers requests comments from the public. Director Breest stated that Parks staff went to 10 different towns/villages throughout the county and posted notices in five locations throughout each one. A listing of all locations was included in the agenda packet. A letter from Chairman Powers was also sent to the 10 Town Clerks.

No public comments were made during the public hearing.

G. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Creation of a Winnebago County Parks District within County Code Chapter 19
Ethan Hollenberger, County Executive Assistant, stated that this ordinance was completed with the help of corporation counsel and outside counsel, and modeled according to what other municipalities have done for park districts. Supervisor Belville reminded the committee that they have been discussing this ordinance since December of 2024.

Motion by Joshua Belville, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve the Creation of a Winnebago County Parks District within County Code Chapter 19. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

H. Director's Report

1. Parks Director Project Update
*Sunnyview West Campus – 9 bids, 25% under budget, working on sending contracts out for this project.
Waukau Dam – 2 bids, Radke has been contracted to do the project and expected to start this spring and be completed by August.
Park Shelter Improvements – Starting in late March or early April.
Butte des Morts Boat Landing – Permitting and design is moving along
Cover Arena Improvements – Out for bid, hiring a consultant, insulating and painting to be completed in 2026
Soccer Schedule – working with OYSC to get the schedule online for the 2025 season
Mowing contract – 5 bids, submitting contract with Prairie Pro
Parks Commission approved, starts April 15
Hmong Memorial design and wording approved
Snowmobile grant for 2025-26 on County Board next week
Hiring seasonals
July 20 concert coming to the grandstand stage, tickets on sale now
Working on expo and park contracts
Clearing drainage ditches along Wiouwash
Working on a project with the Communities group at the Best Friends Dog Park*

Supervisor Binder asked about charging for reserving soccer fields and putting reserved signs by the soccer fields. Ethan Hollenberger stated that the new software should help with scheduling and notifying the public about what fields are open/closed. Supervisor Binder would like to see the disc golf basket sales from last year.

Supervisor Ponzer wants to make sure the Waukua Dam project stays on budget. Director Breest stated there is a 7% contingency on the project and Graef is doing onsite construction monitoring. Ethan Hollenberger stated there is a new public works ordinance that holds contractors more accountable for the work they do.

I. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supervisor Ponzer asked about the county-wide boat landing permit. No new updates.

Supervisor Binder asked for an update on fish stocking and treating weeds at County Park ponds. Treating scheduled to be done in May/June. Asked about flowering vines for the arch at County Park. Staff will be putting something new in there this year.

J. Next Meeting Date

April 8 at 8 a.m. at the JP Coughlin Building.

K. Items for Next Agenda

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

No comments.

L. Adjourn

Motion by Rachael Dowling, seconded by James Ponzer to Approve Adjourn. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 a.m.