



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2025**

A. Call to Order

Chair Powers called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

In attendance: Karen Powers, Steve Binder, James Ponzer, Rachael Dowling (Online), Doug Nelson, Bob Albright, Larry Lautenschlager, Adam Breest, Justin DeJager

B. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by Doug Nelson to Approve Adopt Agenda. Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Parks Commission Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2025
Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by Doug Nelson to Approve Approval of the Parks Commission Meeting Minutes of June 10, 2025. Yes 7, No 0, Abstained 0

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Bruce Abraham, Oshkosh Pickleball Club - Wanted an update on the upcoming Community Park projects, including the pickleball courts. Would like more updates on the status of the project. Interested in helping to raise funds for new pickleball courts.

E. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. Discuss Available Dates and Times for the Winnebago County Parks Buoy Tour
Director Breest discussed dates for the Parks Commission to consider. A 2-3 hour buoy tour in the morning, followed by a 2-3 hour park tour in the afternoon, with lunch in between. Menasha or Neenah might be a good place to start the buoy tour. The park tour will visit the Waukau Dam and park shelters.

The Commission selected August 12 for the tours. The tour will start at 8 a.m. Bob Albright can't make the August 12 tour and Supervisor Dowling can't make the buoy tour. Will need one or two boats, depending on the number of members going. Director Breest will confirm this date with the Sheriff's Office. The backup date would be September 9.
2. Discuss Available Dates and Times for the Winnebago County Parks General Parks Tour
A 2-3 hour tour of the Waukau Dam and park shelter will take place on August 12, after the buoy tour.

F. Director's Report

1. Department Updates from Director Adam Breest
 - Sunnyview Exposition Center West Campus Improvement Project

- Community Park Shelter 1 and 2 Project
- Waukau Dam Restoration and Improvement Project
- Covered Arena Painting and Insulation Project
- Butte des Mort Boat Landing Improvement Project
- Hmong Service Center Monument
- County-Wide Boat Launch Pass Research
- Parks Spirit Fund Project Update
- Sunnyview Exposition Center Sign Update
- Town of Rushford MOU Update

Sunnyview Exposition Center West Campus Improvement Project - no new updates, will start construction at the end of August.

Community Park Shelter 1 and 2 Project - Moving slower than expected. Contractor had to redo the epoxy to meet our satisfaction. Working to schedule a painter for the columns.

Waukau Dam Restoration and Improvement Project - Showed a few photos of the project. Pier replaced, armament being placed, putting pilings in for additional pier.

Covered Arena Painting and Insulation Project - now new updates

Butte des Mort Boat Landing Improvement Project - Starting to get some permitting approved. Of note: Stewartship grants have not been renewed for the state – a lot of park projects have been funded through this grant.

Hmong Service Center Monument - Might install in July. Working on moving the electrical and getting the concrete base poured.

County-Wide Boat Launch Pass Research - No new updates. Have not heard from some communities.

Parks Spirit Fund Project Update:

Reviewed the PowerPoint presentation, including goals and opportunities. Project review of Waukau Dam, Wiouwash Trail, Boat landing kayak rentals (since removed from the project list), Community Park - shelter 3, softball field 2 and rugby field, regrade soccer fields, additional soccer fields, and pickleball courts. Supervisor Binder wants a resolution to replace park signs and playground equipment. Supervisor Dowling agreed and wants to look into playground credits for removal and replacement. The shelter 1 playground could be removed this fall and a new one installed in the spring. The playground and park signs don't need an engineer and can be started sooner than some of the larger park projects. Staff is working on getting a request for proposal for an engineer/consultant in July, with a goal of signing a contract in September. Fall through spring for planning, with construction starting in late 2026 to 2027. Staff will be in communication with our user groups when there are updates to provide.

Sunnyview Exposition Center Sign Update - The sign company submitted a permit to the WI DOT. If approved, the project can move forward.

Town of Rushford MOU Update - Director Breest attended the town meeting last week. It was pushed back until the August board meeting.

Big events coming up – Lifest, Fair, Horse Shows, Soccer Saturday, Pigfest

Some of the park user groups have inquired about charging attendees for parking at events. This issue will be put on a future commission agenda for discussion.

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Chair Powers would like to see more people/board members attend the Hmong Memorial dedication on August 30. Dedication will be during the opening ceremony.

Supervisor Binder wants staff to look into outdoor mobility scooters that can be used by disabled trail users, such as the scooters used in Outagamie. Would like to see the pothole by the entrance on Snell Road filled.

H. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, August 12 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 Bob Albright to Adjourn. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

[MIN FOOT]