



Winnebago County

The Wave of the Future

**PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025**

A. Call to Order

Supervisor Binder called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

In attendance: Karen Powers, Steve Binder, Doug Nelson, Rachael Dowling, Bob Albright, Adam Breest, Justin DeJaer, Rick Helms, Kyle Vergin, Paul Kaiser, Koby Schellenger

B. Adopt Agenda

Motion by Doug Nelson, seconded by Larry Lautenschlager to Approve Adopt Agenda. Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Parks Commission Meeting of August 12, 2025

Motion by Larry Lautenschlager, seconded by Steve Binder to Approve Approval of the Parks Commission Meeting of August 12, 2025. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 1

D. Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comment.

E. Business Items

Action may be taken on any business items.

1. 2026 Parks Budget Updates & Review

Director Breest reviewed operational and capital budgets.

Operational

- *Revenue at the Expo continues to increase. Expo revenue has increased by \$100,000 over the last four years.*
- *Parks only has five caretakers for 1,000 acres, plus the expo. An additional caretaker is needed to maintain parks at a high level. Pay starts around \$26/hr.*
- *The shoulder caretaker would work from April-May and Sept-Nov. Pay would be equivalent to a Parks Caretaker.*
- *Parks staff have to gradually improve equipment every year, so it spreads out the cost. This way, Parks doesn't end up having to purchase a lot of equipment at one time.*
- *There is caving in around the edge of Asylum Point and the lighthouse island. Land & Water is helping with the design to put rip rap around this area.*
- *The Expo and workshop security system is dated, and the main hub needs to be replaced.*
- *Boat landing revenue is increasing from last year.*
- *Park shelter roofs at Eureka need to be replaced.*

The Commission suggested putting cash boxes on the trail or QR codes, so people can make

donations to the park.

Capital

- *Lift truck shared with Facilities. They will use a leasing program through their budget for the lift truck. Removed from the capital budget.*
- *Poygan Boat Ramp: Estimated around \$200k. Undermining on landing, patches on the ramp, and spider cracking throughout. Supervisor Binder mentioned making the parking lot bigger. It's not in the budget this year, but could be considered.*
- *Butte des Morts Boat Landing: Parks received a \$964 grant from DNR, which covers nearly half the project. Dredging was added to the County portion of the budget. Hooking up to the Algoma sanitary district. Larger improvements include redesigning the parking lot, additional lighting, and dredging.*
- *Covered Arena: Engineering and construction estimated at \$930k, which includes insulation, sandblasting, painting, and roof membrane.*
- *Community Park Pavilion: Engineering (2026) and construction (2027) are estimated at around \$3.45 million. Four-season facility, wedding-type venue, about 4,000 sq ft. It would be a total site redevelopment, including a new parking lot.*

Supervisor Binder suggested ice skating in the winter. Possible option, but there could be some liability issues.

2. Discussion and Possible Action on Amendments to the Budget the Committee may recommend to the County Board
No amendments proposed by the Parks Commission.

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
- Parks Spirit Fund Project Update
- Sunnyview Exposition Center Sign Update
- Community Park Entrance Sign Project
- Shelter 1 Playground Replacement
- Other General Maintenance Updates

No discussion.

G. Communications Shared by Committee Members

Supervisor Binder: Would like staff to address the expo bathroom doors - they are too heavy; could consider ADA buttons or easy-open/lighter doors.

Bob Albright: Asked about the Wiouwash Trail project engineering; staff is meeting with engineers this week, and will reach out to stakeholders to raise funds. Staff would like the project done and transferred by the end of 2026. Park sign RFPs due this week.

Larry Lautenschlager: Asked about WPRA Conference. Parks staff attend every year.

Chair Powers: Reminded commission members to respond to her meeting reminders, so she knows if someone is not going to be there.

H. Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, November 11 at 8 a.m.

I. Items for Next Agenda

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

Parking fees for special events.

Winter use of boat landings.

J. Tour of Sunnyview Exposition Center Construction Area

Will be outside for this item, and exempt from recording rules.

K. Adjourn

Motion by Steve Binder, seconded by Bob Albright to Adjourn. Yes 5, No 0, Abstained 0

The meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.

[MIN FOOT]