

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025, 5:15 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Members present: Chair Joel Ahrens, Keith Klimek, and Tony O'Neill.

Others Attending: Mayor Katie Berman, Parks & Recreation Director Lori Tonn, and Public Works Director Matt Decur.

Chair Ahrens called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Motion by Klimek and seconded by O'Neill to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3/0.

Minutes:

Motion by Klimek and seconded by O'Neill to approve the February 24, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried 3/0.

Public Comments: None

Discuss/consider Badger Campground wood price:

The cost of cut and split firewood has increased significantly. The campground typically goes through approximately five truckloads annually, estimated at over \$1,500.

New pricing is now set at:

- \$25.00 for a small bundle
- \$50.00 for a large bundle

A security camera has been repositioned to monitor the wood area and ensure campers are paying. Wood pricing will be reviewed again later in the year for potential adjustments.

Discuss/consider weed harvester maintenance:

Jason Stibbe in DPW looked at welding any holes and seams in harvester ballasts. O'Neill and Director Tonn will form a committee to pursue grants and outside funding (e.g., NRDA, DNR, WPS, Bond programs).

Tonn will also obtain updated quotes for the harvester, trailer, and conveyor system.

Discuss/consider NW Front Street boat launch wood decking maintenance and replacement:

One deck board on each dock was replaced. Full decking replacement is estimated at \$1,500-\$2,000. Tonn will review future budget options for full replacement, including larger posts with protective boat bumpers.

Parks & Recreation Director update by Director Tonn:

- Softball field project is complete.
- Commemorative brick area at Badger Park is completed and seeded.
- Park buildings and restrooms have been painted and stained.

- Badger trail bridges were repaired using larger bolts to deter vandalism (thanks to Mike).
 - Trail entrances have been expanded.
 - Trash can misuse continues—residents are dumping personal trash in campground receptacles. Staff will monitor; cameras have been relocated to discourage abuse.
 - Campground trees: 7–10 need replacement.
 - Pavilion trees: 12–15 small trees need replacement.
- A suggested PR tag line to help offset costs for this effort: *“Help Us Branch Out.”*
- Stibbe Park lighting: 15 of 27 decorative fixtures are nonfunctional; new ballasts and bulbs are needed. This will be folded into the LED conversion project if possible.
 - Buoy placement: DNR approval is still pending for proper signage. Prop damage is occurring from grounding. Tonn is continuing coordination with the DNR.

Note of Thanks:

- Thank you to the Public Works Department for assistance with tree removal and miscellaneous projects.
- Appreciation to Mike and Wendy for their help and dedication to keeping the parks beautiful.
- Special thanks to John for repairing park equipment, painting buildings, and ensuring efficiency across facilities.

Other matters: None

Set future meeting(s):

The next Parks & Recreation meeting was scheduled for Tuesday July 22 at 5pm or to immediately following Streets & Drainage.

Future agenda item, Weed harvester update.

Motion by Klimek and seconded by O'Neill to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. Motion carried 3/0.

Katie Berman, Mayor