



## BETTENDORF PARK ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 5:00pm  
Bettendorf Community Center  
2204 Grant Street, Bettendorf, Iowa

#### Members Present:

Gregg Machetta (Chairperson)  
Catherine Duda  
Debbie Potts

Bob Sartor (Vice Chairperson)  
Betsy Flaherty

#### Members Absent:

Maxim Pikulski  
Kathleen Roberts

Spencer Mesick  
Laura Wittnebel

#### Staff Present:

Director of Parks & Recreation – John Byrnes  
Administrative Assistant – Kim Radcliff  
Recreation Manager – Liz Solis-Willis  
Recreation Manager – Nathan Pittman  
Park Maintenance Manager – Jason Manfull

1. Motion to call the meeting to order at 5:02pm
  - o Machetta motioned, Duda seconded, no vote needed
2. Motion to approve the Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes dated June 11, 2025:
  - o Duda motioned, Flaherty seconded
  - o Ayes: all present, Nays: none, Motion carried
3. Edgewood Park Public Input Wrap-Up: following the public input event at the park, an online voting opportunity was created for park goers to vote on one of the top four options selected by those that attended the event. Voting closed June 30<sup>th</sup>, and Concept #1 (see attached) was the winner which includes a new playground (\$130K-\$150K) and a new shelter (\$85K-\$90K). The shelter will be reservable, used for programming, and will have electricity and grills. The remaining CIP funds will be used for smaller projects such as painting the bathroom, updating bathroom lighting, etc. These projects will take place next spring. Flaherty asked if the new shelter would replace the old. We do not have money to demo the old one, so this will be an additional shelter, for now.

4. The Landing FY Review: Pittman presented a fiscal year financial review for The Landing Ice Rink which included data from FY23 and FY25 (FY24 was closed due to construction). We opened nearly a month late this year, and still more than doubled our revenues compared to FY24. While the city's subsidy remained the same each year, the percentage of expenses recovered in FY25 was 62% higher, and visitors increased by 5600. Pittman reviewed changes comping for FY26 including additional lodge rentals, fundraisers, and programming. Duda asked what kind of rentals. Pittman said private rentals, such as birthday parties, would be allowed outside of opening hours as well as in the fall and spring. Pittman is hoping to enhance the lodge/concessions area with a redesign of equipment, more hot food items, more furniture, adding TVs, etc. Programs will include special events such as line dancing and roller-skating nights to start which will be open to the public with concessions and alcohol available for sale. Flaherty asked about season passes, and Pittman and Byrnes agreed to work on finding a good price point and possibly offering one for the second half of the season. Flaherty said she has heard nothing but good things about the ice rink, even months after her son's birthday party last winter, which was a huge hit. She said that everything was handled perfectly.
  
5. Park Advisory Board (PAB) Tasks: Byrnes reviewed a list that Sartor had recently created from the 2024 Parks & Rec Master Plan that focused on specific directional tasks for PAB members. Byrnes explained that several of the items are already being completed by staff. He suggested adding a special meeting in September for the PAB to discuss recommendations that the Parks & Rec Department should focus on prior to Byrnes heading into the City's overall goal-setting meetings in October. Items noted on Sartor's list included Architectural Barriers, Programs Policy, Operations & Maintenance, and more. These items were left in the plan from previous tasks performed by the old governing Park Board and no longer need to be performed by the new PAB. Park governance is ongoing, budgets are presented, and voting is not required. Liz Solis-Willis is working with our Trails committee on the land policy, and Forest Grove Park will have a PAB member on its steering committee. Byrnes further explained that twice a year, he gives a department presentation to the City Council. This is a great opportunity for him to bring forward information from the PAB, the Bettendorf Trails Committee, the Bettendorf Conservation Committee, etc.

Sartor said that he and PAB Member, Mesick, were involved in the planning of the 2024 Park & Rec Master Plan, and they specifically wanted the PAB included. He encouraged the PAB members to get involved with the community and communicate ways the Parks & Rec Department and the City can help. The categories on his list were added to the Master Plan with the PAB in mind, so when discussing with people, have these various items in mind. Duda asked if Bi-State did an ADA compliance check on our parks, and if so, wouldn't our amenities/areas already cover that. Byrnes said he will have to investigate that.

Byrnes thanked Sartor for putting the list together. The staff will continue to keep the PAB informed, and anytime any of these things come up, please bring them to us at these meetings so we can address them.

Machetta passed out copies of the PAB's Park Report and suggested they do it again. Duda said she liked going out into the community and liked the assignment. Liz suggested adding a completed column to the report as several items are done or getting done and it would be good for the PAB members to have when they are talking to the community members. Byrnes said that the master plan is super helpful to keep us on track, and to answer to the City Council, so it is a more effective tool for spending money responsibly. He also supported their desire to update their report.

6. Park Advisory Board Open Discussion:

- Byrnes addressed security concerns at The YMCA Water Park at The Landing. The YMCA has hired a security company to provide additional capacity control, pool patrol, etc. They have also implemented new age restrictions for admission. Those two items should slow down the incidents. Machetta asked if they have a maximum capacity, and Byrnes said yes, they do. They are trying to find a balanced level of admitting several patrons while also providing good experience.
- Byrnes said cameras are being installed at Kiwanis Park. Next will be McManus Park and Meier Park.
- Byrnes also followed up on dog tags. The dog park committee said they do not manage the dog tag program and didn't think they needed to add that to help their revenues. They already have a large fundraiser event each year.
- Duda asked for an update on goose management at the lagoon. Byrnes said that we will develop a strategy later in August.
- Flaherty asked about dredging the lagoon. Byrnes said yes, another 4-8 feet for Iowa DNR to stock high-end fish – this will happen next year. Potts asked if the quarry at Crow Creek Park will also get stocked. Manfull said that they are looking at stocking that and the Hopewell Detention Pond. We know that a lot of kids are fishing often at these three locations, so we are excited for these enhancements.

7. Motion to end the meeting at 5:42

- Machetta motioned, Sartor seconded, no vote needed

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Radcliff, Administrative Assistant