



## BETTENDORF PARK ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 13, 2025, at 5:00pm  
Bettendorf Community Center  
2204 Grant Street, Bettendorf, Iowa

#### Members Present:

Gregg Machetta (Chairperson)  
Catherine Duda  
Laura Wittnebel  
Spencer Mesick

Bob Sartor (Vice Chairperson)  
Betsy Flaherty  
Debbie Potts

#### Members Absent:

Maxim Pikulski  
Kathleen Roberts

#### 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 5:00pm
  - o Machetta motioned, Duda seconded, no vote needed
  
2. Motion to approve the Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes dated July 9, 2025:
  - o Machetta motioned, Duda seconded
  - o Ayes: all present, Nays: none, Motion carried
  
3. Byrnes updated the Board regarding the possibility of splitting costs with the City of Moline on the purchase of a Goosinator to reduce the geese population. The Goosinator is a machine that operates similarly to a remote-control car. It looks like a seaplane but runs along the ground. Its job is to maneuver around the park areas where geese are lingering, and eventually geese see it as a predator living in the area and decide to leave. It is designed to get geese that have grown comfortable in the parks around people, move back to the air and back to their migrating patterns. Running this machine repeatedly twice a day for two weeks has shown an 80% reduction in geese. Cost of this machine is roughly \$4500-\$5000.

4. Brandon Stevens, a citizen of Bettendorf, spoke to the Board regarding pump tracks and their benefit to the community. Byrnes showed a video of various pump track options and how they would look in a park setting. Stevens said basically they are like a race car track but scaled down. They are for non-motorized vehicles such as bikes, skateboards, scooters, roller skates, and roller blades. Concrete is the best material, and Brandon and his son are avid pump track users. He said East Moline has one, so Bettendorf should as well. He understands there is a process with city-funded projects and originally thought Lincoln Park was a good location for one but now realizes it's too small. Edgewood Park is a better location, and a pump track came was voted second favorite at these the public input events held at Lincoln and Edgewood Parks. After speaking with community members in the parks and on Facebook, Brandon found a lot of interest and support.

Byrnes noted that we have funds to do a pump track (Phase 1) and a bike playground (Phase 2). Phase I is what we want to present at the city's goal setting this fall. This is achievable if we start working behind the scenes now with the Park Advisory Board, the Park Foundation, Brandon, etc. Overall cost would be \$95K-\$100K. Parks & Rec would like to raise \$50K in donations, and they hope the city will pay the difference as a Capital Improvement Project. In addition to Edgewood Park, Byrnes would love to put a pump track at Forest Grove Park as a super cool new amenity for citizens from all over the Quad Cities and beyond to visit and use. A smaller version at Edgewood Park, and a larger version at Forest Grove Park.

Duda asked about the target age range. Stevens answered typically young children, but adults will be interested as well. Duda said she would hope the track would be big enough to accommodate all ages safely. Stevens said these are family-friendly tracks. Flaherty thinks this could be an added attraction for the kids/families coming to TBK for sport tournaments. Wittnebel thinks this would be a safer option for kids learning how to bicycle or interested in learning how to mountain bike and perhaps clinics could be taught on the track as well. Stevens would like to make this a cultural center for bike safety and has support from local bike/skate business owners. Flaherty asked about grant options, and Mesick said currently there is an RC Racing tournament at the track in East Moline. Wittnebel wondered if a concrete company would provide material at cost in exchange for name recognition, and Byrnes said some companies love this type of unique opportunity to support. He encourages suggestions if board members have anyone in mind, and he would be happy to reach out.

Byrnes asked the Park Advisory Board for their support in pursuing a fundraising campaign for 50% of the total cost of a pump track.

Motion to approve support for Bettendorf Parks & Recreation staff to pursue fundraising for 50% of the cost of a pump track at Edgewood Park (primary location) or at Forest Grove Park (secondary location) to help offset the city's FY27 CIP budget:

- o Flaherty motioned, Wittnebel seconded
- o Ayes: all present, Nays: none, Motion carried

5. The City of Bettendorf received two potential parcels of land donations to potentially expand Crow Creek Park. One is a small parcel of land (noted in the motion below), and the other is a small sliver of a stormwater drainage area. While we have no interest in taking the drainage area, we would like to have the parcel of land. Duda wondered if the city would then be responsible for possible flooding, Byrnes said that wouldn't be an issue. The parcel of land is 7.9 acres and could possibly be used for a trail or something similar. Mesick said the parcel was in a good habitat as well.

Motion to approve the acceptance of land parcel 841037770A in Crow Creek Park; and to decline the stormwater drainage parcel:

- o Machetta motioned, Potts seconded
- o Ayes: all present, Nays: none, Motion carried

6. Byrnes is reviewing the best way to handle the use of our city ballfields. He believes one way is to take over the management of our Crow Creek Park as it has 11 ballfields alone. Pittman is working with Byrnes on preliminary numbers to make this happen. Bettendorf/PV Youth Baseball is currently paying a minimal fee for maintenance of the fields. We want to increase this fee and possibly offer fields to more user groups. Byrnes is looking to increase utilization and expense recovery. Wittnebel said that BPV is a large organization, and so are others like Barnstormers. Byrnes would like to dissolve the lease and allow BPV to rent fields like other organizations. He feels the management of Crow Creek Park will allow us to control field usage, maintenance, and concessions, and he would like to make it be a facility with its own operating budget. He hopes to move forward with budget changes in January.

7. Park Advisory Board Open Discussion:

- o Sartor expressed concerns over the futsal court installation at Kiwanis Park. He reviewed the history of the project to date: first location was at McManus Park for a cost of \$100K, second location was Veterans Memorial Park but would be in a flood plain and cost more, now third location is Kiwanis Park on a basketball court. The cost is \$130K and requires additional bids for removing concrete, replacing drainage, and removing ballast for an additional cost of \$110K. His concern is that this \$100K project is now \$240K. He suggests putting the futsal court on the tennis court to avoid the additional \$110K, and it is already fenced in. Byrnes noted that

the city engineer confirmed that because two of the bidders don't do asphalt work, they do concrete work, we are declining those bids and reopening bids in November. They are confident we'll get better bids due to a later time of year for this type of work. Byrnes was open to moving this project from the basketball court to the tennis court, which is currently not getting much use, however regardless, something will have to be done with the basketball court. Sartor asked why we are going with an asphalt foundation instead of concrete, and Byrnes said it is 70% lower in cost, and many other futsal courts in Iowa are made of asphalt. Byrnes also believes that removing the tennis courts may need public notice. Sartor added that the basketball court has huge drainage issues that don't exist under the tennis court, so Byrnes offered to have its underlying surface tested for viability. Potts stated she is hesitant to remove the tennis courts in case we need to add them back in 5-10 years. She suggested waiting for the rebid in November to see where the costs are at that time. Byrnes stated that if we can prove the tennis courts are not used at all, we can investigate this different location. Mesick asked if the futsal court is coming now, are we pushing back the foundation, and Byrnes said he moved the fabrication of the futsal date back as it is done on site.

8. Motion to end the meeting at 6:03pm

- Potts motioned, Flaherty seconded, no vote needed

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Radcliff, Administrative Assistant