

BETTENDORF PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 5:00pm
Bettendorf Community Center
2204 Grant Street, Bettendorf, Iowa

Members Present:

Gregg Machetta (Chairperson)
Catherine Duda
Debbie Potts
Maxim Pikulski

Bob Sartor (Vice Chairperson)
Betsy Flaherty
Spencer Mesick
Kathleen Roberts

Members Absent:

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 5:00pm
 - Machetta motioned, Sartor seconded, no vote needed
2. Motion to approve the Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes dated August 13, 2025:
 - Machetta motioned, Duda seconded
 - Ayes: all present, Nays: none, Motion carried
3. As part of the strategic planning efforts, Byrnes reviewed the department's annual goal setting and planning agenda.
 - Policy Agenda Top Priorities:
 - Forest Grove Park (contract to be awarded soon to a consultant and architect)
 - Future Community Center renovation plans (about 50% of our programming is through this building which is not feasible at city hall; looking for council support to explore potential options to build a new recreation facility).

- Management Agenda Top Priorities:
 - Pump Track on 23rd Street (replacing the ballfield behind the Centennial Garden)
 - Hoover Park Splashpad/Playground
 - Kiwanis Playground Replacement
 - Crow Creek Park Ballfield Upgrades

Sartor asked about the PAB's presentation to the council, and Byrnes said he plans to give all updates at one time (from staff, TRU, PAB, etc.), so Greg Machetta will be with him on behalf of the PAB.

4. Park Advisory Board Open Discussion:

- Roberts asked to have Friendship Park's results communication/engage page on our website updated. www.bettendorf.org/RefreshFriendshipPark
- Maxim asked if the story walk at Kiwanis Park could get updated more often than every 6 weeks. This is a Library program managed by their staff.
- Maxim asked about free Wi-Fi in the parks, Byrnes said he wants that at FGP, and that some of the parks have it already, but he has found that the council is supportive of that initiative.
- Mesick asked about volunteer coach recruitment and ways to help encourage parents to step into that role. Staff explained current procedures for recruitment, and through discussion, new ideas were presented including expectation clarity, including coaching benefits (all equipment is provided, coaches pick their own practice day/time, only one practice a week, providing coaches with a practice field/game binder of rules, practice ideas, rosters, etc. - good for assistants filling in, etc.)
- Machetta liked Mesick's idea of PAB members visiting parks in their own wards. He asked members to note which parks are closest to their homes, so he can reassign a list of parks to visit for community input.
- Maxim and Potts asked about the future of Optimist and McLamarrah Parks – Byrnes added Wessels and said the city would like to rezone these three parks as greenspaces.
- Duda asked if McManus could be cleaned up more routinely.

5. Motion to end the meeting at 5:55pm

- Machetta motioned, Sartor seconded, no vote needed

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Radcliff, Administrative Assistant