

BETTENDORF PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 5:00pm

Bettendorf Community Center

2204 Grant Street, Bettendorf, Iowa

Members Present:

Gregg Machetta (Chairperson)

Betsy Flaherty

Spencer Mesick

Kathleen Roberts

Bob Sartor (Vice Chairperson)

Debbie Potts

Maxim Pikulski

Members Absent:

Catherine Duda

Laura Wittnebel

Staff Present:

Director of Parks & Recreation – John Byrnes

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 October 8, 2025:
 - Machetta motioned, Sartor seconded
 - Ayes: all present, Nays: none, Motion carried
3. City-Wide Baseball Field Discussion
 - The board discussed levels of investment at various fields regarding maintenance.
 - Legacy is interested in a season long rental of Meier, so do we invest money to make it more functional; Potts asked if their intention was to use it only for practices.
 - Pikulski asked about the JP contract and taxpayer return; Byrnes will report back after current conversations are finalized.
 - Flaherty asked about a future park location that is more functional for ongoing use; Byrnes suggested Forest Grove.

- Byrnes asked Manfull if \$5,000 at Meier would make sense; Manfull supported that suggestion, and he mentioned Hoover and Edgewood; Byrnes suggested Veterans Memorial as well; Potts asked if Edgewood is a better option than Meier; Manfull said that both ballfields are needing investment upgrades.

4. Trail Committee Recommendations

- Byrnes reviewed the Bettendorf Trail Committee's project recommendations to satisfy the 2013 Trails Master Plan. Council would need an additional \$1 million to fund the projects which would make this a policy decision, but Byrnes asked the Board for their support to advocate for trail improvements alongside the trails committee.
- Flaherty asked about Criswell trail mileage; Byrnes replied 4-5 miles and trail will end at Forest Grove.
- Roberts asked for a breakdown list of trail project costs.

5. History of Forest Grove Park

- Sartor led a review discussion of Forest Grove Park and his concerns with the lack of development compared to rising costs; Byrnes reviewed the FGP Study which includes operational costs, revenue generated programs, fundraising efforts, and grants needed outside the city's capital improvement; council holds the purse strings; input is needed by park advisory board, public, and shareholders; this project has several ongoing to-do lists.

6. Park Advisory Board Open Discussion:

- Machetta shared his list of PAB member park visits. Mesick additionally took Pigeon Creek Park, and Manfull agreed to assess Eagles Landing, Jetty Park, Optimist Park, and Wessel Park.
- Byrnes circled back on Pikulski's concern about JP Sports usage of Crow Creek fields. Byrnes clarified there is no single source contract, and that the fields can be rented by any group wanting to host a tournament, in fact there is already another renter that has booked. Byrnes explained that creating an avenue for tournament usage will decrease the city subsidy to operate the fields, increase utilization, help promote economic impact, and increase offerings for local users.

7. Motion to end the meeting at 5:59pm

- Machetta motioned, Sartor seconded, no vote needed

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Radcliff, Administrative Assistant