

BETTENDORF PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5:00pm
Bettendorf Community Center
2204 Grant Street, Bettendorf, Iowa

Members Present:

Gregg Machetta (Chairperson)
Betsy Flaherty
Spencer Mesick
Catherine Duda

Bob Sartor (Vice Chairperson)
Debbie Potts
Kathleen Roberts
Laura Wittnebel

Members Absent:

Maxim Pikulski

Staff Present:

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

1. Motion to call the meeting to order at 5:00pm
 - Machetta motioned, Flaherty seconded, no vote needed

2. Motion to approve the Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes dated December 10, 2025:
 - Machetta motioned, Potts seconded
 - Ayes: all present, Nays: none, Motion carried

3. Dekhockey Lease Agreement
 - Byrnes gave a quick overview of the current lease between the City of Bettendorf and Patrik Levesque (QC Dekhockey). Created 11 years ago, the lease recently expired and needs to be renegotiated. Byrnes would like to focus on operation rather than a specific facility. The delicacy of the renegotiation is working with a for-profit organization's operations within a city park, and while the program has grown significantly and benefits the community, lease benefits, rental fees, and operational costs/needs must be reviewed carefully. The lease needs to be right sized for the park. Byrnes asked the PAB for ideas they want to see in the new lease.

- Machetta asked how long the new lease would be, Byrnes said ultimately that will be a council decision.
- Wittnebel asked if Mr. Levesque is responsible for trailer and rink upkeep. Byrnes confirmed yes. She assumed it was the city, and believes others think that as well. When they are not kept up, the public think that's on the city.
- Roberts asked if there were any parking logistic changes in the works since dekhockey has already grown significantly in the park, causing nights and weekends to be very busy with traffic which is dangerous for park users. Byrnes said that the new police station has plans to open another entrance/exit near the soccer complex portion of the park which will help traffic flow.

4. Spring Capital Improvement Projects

- Byrnes gave updates on our current CIP projects
- Palmer Hills Golf Course: spring opening will excite golfers with clubhouse renovations and new course bathrooms
- Friendship Park: happening in early March/April, Roberts would like it sooner if possible
- Ball Field Upgrades: quotes to expand infields coming soon
- Edgewood Park: playground install set for March 15, however the new shelter might take longer and push the playground back but excited for our summer camp there
- Kiwanis Futsal Court and Overlay: both are out for bid, install late June
- Lincoln Park: new playground done, ribbon cutting after parking lot and splash pad shade structure installs
- Urban Fishing: meeting next week with K&K Hardware owner and sporting goods manager to discuss project collaboration, very exciting
- Kiwanis Park Playground: public input meeting in early June, install this fall
- Park Camera Installation: new city-wide management software, expanding coverage at Crow Creek Park, bringing halo sensor technology to Lincoln Park, adding coverage to the veteran's memorial in Veterans Memorial Park, and lastly McManus Park, focusing attention on areas of liability exposure and past vandalism
- Forest Grove Park: Hunden Partners will be presenting their upcoming feasibility study process at our council meeting next week, plus survey coming soon for public input
- Wittnebel asked if PH Grill was still operated by Craig Wagner; Byrnes said yes, and he believes there is one year left in the current contract
- Flaherty asked for an update on the pump track at 23rd Street. Byrnes noted the staff's original recommendation is at 23rd St replacing the underused single baseball field with this new amenity because the area in Middle Park, a community park, is perfect for this type of project, including parking, good visibility for donor's stake, and trail connections. The current users of the field (Bett/PV Youth Baseball) have other field options for their coach-pitch games including Edgewood Park ballfield which is being upgraded soon. Byrnes said ultimately the goal is to bring this new attraction to our park system, so additional conversation regarding the location will happen with council in the future. PAB members unanimously agreed this location is their preference of the options that were discussed because it is better for kids than

anywhere else in the city; area citizens are already on bike paths near this location which is nicer than having to load up bikes and travel to a destination.

5. Winterfest 2026

- Pittman gave an overview of this upcoming event on Sunday, February 1. In the past, this event was called Winter Carnival. It lasted all day and spread out over various city facilities. This year, it has been renovated now that we have a perfectly logical winter location – The Landing Ice Rink! Winterfest will now take place at this one location from 11am-3pm and will include fun activities for the whole family. Bettendorf Parks & Recreation is partnering with the Family Museum and the Bettendorf Library to offer the public free admission, live music by Hap Hazzard, ice sculpturing, kid games and crafts, a s'mores station, and of course – ice skating! Skate rentals are \$3, and Hy-Vee will be giving away a free hot dog and a hot cocoa to the first 300 visitors! Adventurous Brewing and Twin Span Brewing will be providing samples, so come enjoy our heated tents, indoor and outdoor fire pits, and new concession items such as pizza, pretzels, and nachos, and various adult beverages. Kickoff the morning by participating in our Frosty Four Fun Run/Walk at 8:30am which meets in the parking lot of The Landing! This annual event is fun for the whole family, and each participant receives a free beanie, medal, and a drink ticket at The Lodge (the Landing Ice Rink's event facility)! So mark your calendars for Sunday, February 1 – [pre-register here for the Frosty](#) – and we'll see you at The Landing Ice Rink at 11am!

6. Park Advisory Board Open Discussion:

- Sartor mentioned Iowa Legislature will soon be capping property taxes which will affect the city's revenue. Byrnes concurred and noted Bettendorf is fortunate to be in the financial position it is, but many Iowa cities are not and will really struggle with this cap. Unfortunately, "quality of life" budgets are the first to be cut, so Parks & Recreation departments across the state will be affected, becoming imperative to continue showing elected officials that Parks and Recreation is an essential service.

7. Motion to end the meeting at 5:46pm

- Machetta motioned, Flaherty seconded, no vote needed

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Radcliff, Administrative Assistant