



## BETTENDORF PARK ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 5:00pm  
Bettendorf Community Center  
2204 Grant Street, Bettendorf, Iowa

#### Members Present:

Gregg Machetta (Chairperson)  
Maxim Pikulskiy  
Spencer Mesick

Bob Sartor (Vice Chairperson)  
Debbie Potts  
Catherine Duda

#### 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. Call to Order
  - Machetta motioned, Sartor seconded to call the meeting to order at 5:00pm
  - Radcliff took roll call; members absent: Flaherty, Roberts, and Wittnebel
2. Election of Officers
  - Duda motioned, Potts seconded to elect Greg Machetta as Chairperson and Bob Sartor as Vice-Chairperson for the 2026 calendar year.
  - Ayes: all present, Nays: none, Motion carried
3. Meeting Minutes
  - Machetta motioned, Pikulskiy seconded to approve the Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes dated January 14, 2026.
  - Ayes: all present, Nays: none, Motion carried
4. Palmer Hills (Forge) 2026 Changes
  - Byrnes reviewed new business plans for The Forge Putting Course this season. Staff will be modeling the success The Landing Ice Rink had this past winter season with its rental events. The Forge will now offer birthday party packages, corporate events, private rentals, and fundraising events in hopes of increasing awareness, attendance, and sales. Additional changes include a free putting course round

for every 18-hole golf round purchased., and an increase to concession offerings. Staff hope these changes will give The Forge the boost it needs to be successful as it starts its third season. Machetta asked when The Forge will open for the season, and Byrnes responded mid-April.

#### 4. Forest Grove Park Survey Results

- Byrnes reviewed the results from the initial park survey. He felt this initial feedback from City Council members, Park Advisory Board members, stakeholders, and staff provided a great vision for what this park should be for the community. Among the 18 items suggested for the park, the top 10 chosen included several experience-based amenities which are great assets to the park but also highly taxing on parks maintenance staff costs. Due to the lack of revenue-generating options, Byrnes will encourage the addition of a food-and-beverage component to add more revenue. The survey results proved to match his wishes for the park, and felt it was a great start.
- Pikulskiy expressed disappointment that only one vote came in for soccer. Potts responded that because the park is so close to TBK, perhaps some felt it would be nice to have a park to escape to that isn't focused on sports – to give families an alternative experience.

#### 5. Natural Areas/Greenspace Management

- Manfull gave an update on his recent tree trimming projects, why they cause concern for citizens, and why they are crucial to the long-term health and growth of the area. Natural area management can alarm the public when they see staff using a large forestry drum that massively trims bigger items like bushes, small trees, etc. However, these projects are not destroying or removing anything healthy for that area's environment. We are basically cleaning, maintaining, and enhancing these areas within our parks and along our trails. Unfortunately, many of our wooded areas are overgrown with honeysuckle bushes.
- Mesick, who is also on the city's Trees Are Us Committee, stated that he surveys many of these natural areas to see how the honeysuckle changes the area's biodiversity. We don't want just one species growing in an area, because if a disease comes through, it can wipe out that entire area. Honeysuckle does that – it prevents other species from growing.
- Manfull's job is to trim back the honeysuckle, reinvigorate the habitat, allow sunlight to reach other healthier species to grow in its place. He added that overgrown areas can also be dangerous to citizens (blind spots on trails for instance) and dampen air flow on a golf course. He is working to create a best-practices document as a reference tool in the future.
- Sartor said that a lot of what is here now wasn't here 10 years ago, including a lot of random evasive species like box elder and honeysuckle. It is nice to see park maintenance getting rid of these.

6. Park Advisory Board Open Discussion:

- Sartor asked about the State of the City Address on Feb 25. He wondered if Park Advisory Board Members could have a table reserved and those attending could just pay at the door. Byrnes confirmed this, and the following members said they would most likely attend: Sartor, Machetta, Duda, Flaherty, and Pikulskiy. Sartor said he would take care of getting this table reserved with city administration.
- Pikulskiy said he liked the LED lights that park maintenance has installed over the years at Crow Creek Park but noted that their timing needs to be updated in response to daylight savings time.
- Potts asked if anything is changing in the plan for the parks and what would you like for them to look for in the parks they are reviewing. Byrnes asked for general thoughts on functionality, aesthetics, hazards, safety, and amenities that could help citizens.

7. Motion to end the meeting at 5:36pm

- Machetta motioned, Sartor seconded, no vote needed

Respectfully submitted,  
Kim Radcliff, Administrative Assistant