

Community Development Department

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PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES JANUARY 21, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Matt Janquart (Chair), Mei Mei Abdouch, Phil Galli, Brenda Gaulke, Melissa Pedrini, and Natasha Schaefer.

Members Absent: Jeff Bjork (Council Rep).

Staff Present: Brooks Ostendorf - Conservation and Parks Manager, Levi Myers - Natural Resources Coordinator, Kyle Mackey - Recreation Coordinator, Brenda Rundle - Customer Service Representative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **MSC Gaulke/Abdouch approve the minutes of the Dec 17, 2025 Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) meeting. Unanimous.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

William Hansen of the Town of River Falls spoke on behalf of Lake George and the animals found there. He encourages PRAB to work to preserve and enhance the valuable, unique, biodiverse feature of our community. Matt Janquart thanked Erica and the Public Works Staff for helping The Prairie Enthusiasts (TPE) with their clean-up of sections of the Kinni.

ACTION ITEMS

2. Conservation and Parks Manager Brooks Ostendorf provided a memo with park impact fee analysis and recommendations. Staff recommends using available funds at three parks: Glen Park (nature-themed playground, multi-use sport court, multi-use building, trail connection, and landscaping), Sterling Ponds Park (picnic shelter, paved trails, and landscaping), and DeSanctis Park (water service to Grow to Share by spring 2026). Mei Mei Abdouch clarified that the PRAB offers advice and City Council makes the final decision. She would like to see \$10,000 go towards the Dog Park for shade structures because a lot of trees were removed due to EAB. After discussion, Park Board prefers to remove the landscaping from City Staff's recommendation list and add the dog park shade structures instead.

MSC Abdouch/Schaefer to collect Park Impact Fees in a single fund that can be used at any park. Unanimous.

MSC Galli/Pedrini to approve the allocation of park funds for the City's designated three sites. After discussion, MSC Galli/Pedrini to amend the original motion to the allocation of park funds for the City's designated three sites without #3 and #5 (both landscaping) but adding shade structures at the Dog Park. Unanimous.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

3. Brooks told PRAB to email him with any questions about the Comm Dev report that will be included at the back of the packet each month. He asked PRAB to think about desired plans for the land included in the proposed annexation of the Johnson Property. Levi thanked TPE for working on buckthorn removal at Foster Cemetery. EAB tree removal and maintenance have begun throughout the City. Kyle announced that camping reservations will open Feb. 2. Shelter reservations opened on Jan. 4 and there were 24 reservations within the first four minutes, and 65 reservations made in the first 18 minutes. Brooks then read an email from City Administrator Scot Simpson letting PRAB members know that with the dangerously cold weather coming in, that while we don't open shelters unsupervised, the police department has a plan with local agencies to help people find shelter, and officers are able to access shelters if needed for individuals on a limited, temporary basis in addition to the sheltering options that local agencies provide.

CALENDAR

The next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

MSC Abdouch/Galli to adjourn the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Rundle, Customer Service Representative