

**PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES**  
**MONDAY FEBRUARY 3, 2025**  
**7:00 PM**  
**BOARD ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD AVENUE**

Present: Tim Hallquist, Shaunta' de Boer, Kathy Van Thiel, Randy Ferrell, Nick Miller, Rick Conner, and Craig Eisenhut.

Others: Sara Rennekamp, Tom Jenson, Leo Jungbluth, Heather Costa, Ryan Bailey, Erin Guenterberg, Jim Muenzenberger, and Trevor De Boer.

**7:00 PM Call to Order**

**Public comments for those items not included on this agenda:** (Please be advised the Park and Recreation Board will receive information from the public for a three-minute time period per person with time extensions per the Park and Recreation Chairperson's discretion. Be it further advised that there may be limited discussion on the information received, however, no action will be taken under public comments.)

\*Trevor de Boer – would like to see an archery range at the Marsh up at Cottonwood wayside at the Y site. He would like to see it on a future agenda to see if they can get it going.

**1. Consideration of a motion to approve the Park and Recreation minutes of January 6, 2025.**

Motion (Miller/Conner) to approve the January 6, 2025, minutes. Carried (7-0).

**Recreation –**

**2. Discussion and consideration for Special Event for Kiwanis Bark River Bash-**

Jim Muenzenberger was present for Kiwanis to explain the event. He said they have done the event for several years and are looking to bring it back with pretty much the same circumstances that they have done before. He said some items that were new last year were a bounce house and an obstacle course that went over well. The vendors were moved last year behind the seating areas of the fine arts center and that went over well. He said they are still going over some of the details. He the children's entrepreneurial market has approached them to see if they could be the vendors this year. He said the kids produce the items they are selling, the kids sell it, and the kids erect the booths they use to sell it. He said that maybe a potential change from what they have done in the past. He said they usually charge for the booths because that offsets some of the costs but just wanted to bring it up to the Park Board. He said this is a fundraiser for Kiwanis and is asking them to waive the fees. The proceeds will go towards the children's library. Brief discussion on the children's entrepreneurial market.

Motion (Eisenhut /Conner) to approve the Special Event for the Kiwanis Bark River Bash as requested and move the responsibility of the fee waiving to the Village Board. Carried (7-0).

**3. Discussion and consideration for Special Event Hartland Kids Day 2025-**

Erin Guenterberg said this year's Hartland Kids Day which will be held on July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 9am- 1pm. She said she had a department meeting with staff to go over the planning of the event. It is pretty much a repeat from last year and working with departments regarding safety and parking. Hallquist asked if

there were problems with parking. Jungbluth said last year they let food vendors park in the park parking lot. There will be 4-6 food trucks this year as well.

Motion (Ferrell/Miller) to approve the Special Event for Hartland Kids Day 2025. Carried (7-0).

**Public Works –**

**4. Discussion of ECOS Committee 2025 Projects-**

Jim Muenzenberger was present to explain the ECOS 2025 projects. He said they still meet usually monthly and continue to work on the environmental corridor. They have been busy working all the way down from Centennial Park and have made it down to almost the tracks now. Now they are looking at the track along the bark river which is the mill place greenway. He said he has had a discussion with staff about this area, it is a very nice natural area with a lot of nice species there, some grasses and a very nice dogwood. He said there are also a lot of invasive species that you would expect buckthorn and honey suckle. He said they would like to remove that particular growth so that the naturals can continue there. Muenzenberger said they have been talking with staff and if things they have to consider there are sensitivity because we do have property owners that have backyards that border that area, even though this is village property that we are talking about, then the backyards of people that are on Cottonwood Ave and have the river in their backyard, it provides a screen for them. They are not looking to do clear cutting in the area of any sort, they want to be respectful of all of that. He said they thought number one, it would be wise for them to have access to be able to take trees out of the river in that area so creating some pathways to get that from the path where mechanical vehicles can get in there to haul things away would be a wise thing. He said the committee would still like to make Bark River navigable all the way from Centennial Park until it leaves our borders. That is something they would still like to work on, so they are still looking for volunteers and friends' groups to try to do this by hand. Public Works Director Jenson commented that they won't be as intrusive as the original plan was. Hallquist asked if the ECOS committee is done with Penbrook and Muenzenberger said staff came back to them and said maybe they should reconsider some areas.

Muenzenberger explained the landing area near the Cottonwood Bridge. He said there is a very low bank and said they could level it out.

Muenzenberger said with maintenance they are still battling Japanese knotweed at Centennial.

**Other items for Consideration-**

**5. Discussion on future Beer Garden and Village Board possible closed session to discuss at their meeting-**

Village Manager Bailey explained the future of the Beer Garden will be discussed in a closed session at the next Village Board meeting. The Beer Garden is still going to be there, and the goal is for it to be better than ever as it is an asset to the village. He said everyone looks forward to it and we just need to make sure it is run well.

**6. Announcements: It is not completed that these matters will be discussed or acted upon and may include items for future consideration. The following individuals may provide announcements: Park and Recreation Board members or other Village Staff members.**

**None.**

- Rennekamp said she has decided to step down as Recreation Director and this Friday is her last day. She said it has been a privilege to be in this seat for 2 years and she is proud of everything that has been done together as a team. She said Heather is here and she will do great. T-ball opened a week ago and there are 120 registrants. There are 12 on a waiting list for Tuesdays and St. Charles has a wait list as well. Sara said she is working on a recreation manual, so the next team has some idea of what to do going forward.
- Jenson – an old tree in Nixon was taken down that was filled with concrete and rebar. Also, they are working on scheduling of scoreboard.
- Bailey said he met with the new Chamber Director, and he wants to promote Village businesses. Also new Bid president from US bank.

**7. Adjourn -**

Motion (de Boer/Miller) to adjourn. Carried (7-0).

Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted By Recording Secretary,  
Deidre Bushey - Deputy Clerk