

**PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES**  
**MONDAY AUG 4 2025**  
**7:00 PM**  
**BOARD ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD AVENUE**

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

Excused: Nick Miller

Others: Sam Blonien, Tom Jenson, Leo Jungbluth, Nicole Diedrick , Mal Kaul, Andy Kristensen, & Jake Zuehl.

**7:00 PM Call to Order**

**1. Consideration of a motion to approve the Park and Recreation minutes of the May 5th, 2025, meeting.**

Chairperson Tim Hallquist called for consideration of a motion to approve the Park and Recreation minutes of the May 5th, 2025, meeting.

Motion (Conner/Eisenhut) to approve the Park and Recreation minutes of the May 5th, 2025, meeting. Motion carried with one abstention – de Boer.

**2. Consideration of a motion to approve the Park and Recreation minutes of the June 4, 2025, meeting.**

Chairperson Hallquist noted that the previous vote on the June minutes had only three affirmative votes with two abstentions, which did not constitute a quorum, so the minutes needed to be approved again.

Motion (Conner/de Boer) to approve the Park and Recreation minutes of the June 2nd, 2025, Motion carried with one abstention – Eisenhut.

**3. Discussion & possible consideration for Special Event with 2 food trucks for Hartland-Lakeside Education Foundation Back to School Bash, September 12th, Nixon Park**

Rec Director Sam Blonien introduced the item, explaining that HLEF was looking to have two food trucks at their Back-to-School Bash event on September 12th at Nixon Park.

A representative from HLEF explained that last year's event was held at Hartland South, but many attendees went to the Arrowhead game afterward. This year, they wanted to centralize the event at Nixon Park, which also provided bathroom facilities for attendees with young children. The representative requested approval for food trucks, suggesting a shaved ice truck and possibly a taco truck, being careful not to compete with existing vendors like Beer Snobs.

Craig Eisenhut pointed out that the proposed food truck locations on the submitted map were not in the designated food truck area. He explained that the designated area was near the pickleball courts in the new parking lot on the east side of the park. The HLEF representative agreed to relocate the food trucks to the proper area.

It was noted that food trucks would need to supply their own power, as stated in the village rules. The event would run from 5-7 PM on September 12th (Friday), with setup starting at 4 PM. The board also advised that vendors would need to complete proper applications through the Recreation Department administration staff.

Motion (Eisenhut/Farrell) to approve the Back to School Bash at Nixon Park on September 12th with the stipulation that food trucks be placed in the designated food truck location. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **4. Discussion and possible consideration for Special Event for the 2nd Annual Pumpkin Party in the Park, October 11th at Nixon Park**

Sam Blonien introduced the representatives from the Pumpkin Party event, Andy and Jacob, who explained their plans for the second annual event. They described the same concept as last year with a trunk-or-treat in the parking lot and various activities in Nixon Park. New this year, would be the closure of Park Avenue for pedestrian safety, a pumpkin river flow, a movie, and a pumpkin trebuchet. The trebuchet would be built as an Eagle Scout project.

The representatives had already spoken with DPW staff about precautions to protect the grass beneath the pumpkin launching area. They also discussed the entrance plan, which would be from Maple Avenue since the East Park entrance would be closed for safety reasons. Volunteers would be stationed to direct traffic.

The event would run from 4-8 PM, with setup beginning in the late morning or early afternoon after any morning events in the park. There will be no food trucks this year, with food and beverage service provided by Beer Snobs and Kiwanis, who will be selling different items to avoid overlapping.

Motion (Conner/de Boer) to approve the special events for the second annual Pumpkin Party in the Park on October 11th at Nixon Park. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **5. Discussion & possible consideration of Special Event, Fall in line 125, September 19th-20th, 2025, Centennial Park, Tydish Running**

Sam Blonien introduced Nicole Diedrick, owner of Tydish Running (an acronym for "Tell Your Dog I Says Hi"), who presented her proposal for a 125-mile trail run. The event would start in the Northern Kettle Moraine and finish at the southern Kettle Moraine Forest.

Diedrick explained that Centennial Park would serve as an aid station at mile 73 of the race. The aid station would be open from 11:10 PM on September 19th until 1:46 PM on September 20th. She emphasized that her event was not a rowdy party scene but focused on the sport and athletes. Runners typically spend less than 90 minutes at an aid station before continuing. The event currently had 12 runners registered, and she anticipated no more than 15 people coming through the aid station at any time, plus 2-3 volunteers.

The board discussed logistics, including that runners would be coming from Dorn Road and hopping back on the Ice Age Trail after the aid station. All runners would have proper headlights and reflective gear for nighttime running. Diedrick requested use of the pavilion at Centennial Park overnight (past the normal 9 PM park closing time) and access to power at the pavilion. She confirmed that runners would have to leave the aid station by 1:46 PM cutoff time on Saturday or be disqualified from the race.

Board members expressed interest in the event and how it could benefit the community. They noted that police would be notified and would likely take patrol laps through Centennial Park during the overnight hours.

Motion (Farrell/ Conner) to approve the Fall in line 125 on September 19th through the 20th at Centennial Park for the Tydish Running event. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **6. Discussion of the CIP Parks Budget for 2026 and 2027**

Public Works Director Jenson presented the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Parks for 2026 and 2027.

For 2026, the planned projects included:

- Castle Park playground equipment

- Nixon Park baseline and backstop fence and fieldwork (though Eisenhut noted they might not do the fencing due to feedback from user groups)
- Garbage can replacement (20 cans, with 16 just at the splash pad area)
- Picnic tables (planning to do one shelter each year with heavy-duty galvanized tables with composite material)
- Playground wood chips (annual replacement)

For 2027, the planned projects included:

- Pembroke Park playground equipment
- Castle Park basketball court (which was previously presented by students from Hartridge)
- Fine Arts Center door replacements (both the double doors on the back and the beer garden doors)
- Bark River softball field restoration
- Continued garbage can and picnic table replacements
- Playground wood chips

Hallquist brought up a previously discussed idea for a new pavilion with bathrooms and a kitchen near the splash pad, which had been made possible by moving the road. Jenson explained this project had been pushed back due to budget considerations with the new municipal building, but it remained a possibility for 2028 or beyond. The pavilion would serve as another rental facility and revenue generator for the village.

## **7. Discussion and Consideration of the two options for Castle Park Playground Replacement**

Jungbluth said there are two options for the Castle Park playground replacement. Both options were from the same vendor that had supplied playground equipment for Centennial, Nixon, and Hartland Sports parks.

It was explained that both options were ADA accessible and were within \$10,000 of each other in price, with Option 1 being more expensive. Option 1 was described as having more of a "wow factor" and appearing larger and more extravagant. Option 2 featured monkey bars and other climbing equipment more suitable for older children.

The board discussed maintenance concerns, with staff, noting that Option 2 had some features, particularly on the teeter-totter, that might be more prone to breakage. The board considered whether features like monkey bars could be added to Option 1 if desired.

After discussion, most board members expressed a preference for Option 1 due to its more impressive appearance and play value for children, though Craig Eisenhut preferred Option 2.

Motion (de Boer/Hallquist) in consideration for Option 1 as shown for Castle Park playground replacement. Motion carried unanimously with the understanding that staff would have discretion to make minor modifications as needed.

## **8. Announcements**

Recreation Director Sam Blonien provided several updates:

- Day Camp ended successfully on Friday with many positive parent comments, particularly about the leadership of Heather.
- Hometown was a success.
- Tee-Ball program also ended on Friday with an awards ceremony.

- Activity Guide wrapping up.
- Planning for Hometown 2026 had begun.
- The activity guide would be online by the end of the week and mailed out in 1-2 weeks.
- Hometown celebrations had gone well, with positive feedback on the carnival.

DPW updates included:

- A new staff member, Jorge Groves, started that day.
- The building study presented at the last board meeting showed strong resident support for the parks.
- Residents had expressed pride in the parks during public comments.

### **Adjourn**

Motion (Eisenhut/de Boer) to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.