

PARK AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

7:00 PM

BOARD ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 210 COTTONWOOD AVENUE

Present: Tim Hallquist, Shaunta' de Boer, Nick Miller, Rick Conner, and Randy Farrell
Absent: Craig Eisenhut
Excused: Kathy Van Thiel
Others: Sam Blonien, Tom Jenson, Leo Jungbluth, Cory Bahr, & Henry Kruchko.
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.)

1. Consideration of a motion to approve the Park and Recreation minutes of the August 4, 2025, meeting.

Rick Conner made a motion to approve the park and recreation minutes of August 4, 2025. The motion was seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

2. Discussion and consideration for a Special Event at Nixon Park, Trunk or Treat by Sweet Dreams Car Show, Oct. 26th, 2025, Ylli Berisha.

Henry Kruchko appeared before the board to request approval for a trunk-or-treat themed car show at Nixon Park on October 26, 2025. He explained that the event would be family-friendly and similar to one they held in Waukesha that attracted nearly 3,000 attendees and over 400 cars. Participants would pay a small entry fee and receive bags of candy for children to trick-or-treat at the cars.

Tom Jenson raised several concerns from the staff meeting. The primary issue was that the parks officially close on October 15, meaning picnic tables, trash cans, and bathrooms would be removed by the proposed event date. He noted that Nixon Park has 103 parking spots in total, but the application showed 100-180 show cars expected. Fire access would need to be maintained throughout the event. Based on the expected attendance, staff recommended 12 porta-potties, one ADA unit, and one handwashing station, rather than the three units proposed in the application.

Regarding security, Kruchko confirmed they would hire Stumpy Securities from Waukesha, with personnel stationed at each entrance to control access. He proposed eliminating food vendors to simplify logistics and focus on Sweet Dreams' offerings, potentially including on-site custard making. The event would run from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM, with live music scheduled from 3:00 to 7:00 PM.

Rick Conner expressed concern about the 5:53 PM sunset on October 26 and the lack of adequate lighting in the park. He worried about children in costumes walking among moving vehicles in the dark. Tom Jenson confirmed the park has minimal lighting - only path lights and one streetlight near the pond.

The board discussed alternative dates before the park closure. Tim Hallquist suggested October 12, but Tom Jenson explained that Pumpkin in the Park is scheduled for October 11, and they would need staff to remove decorations, hay bales, and displays on Sunday. The board emphasized maintaining precedent, noting they had already required Kiwanis to move their event earlier to comply with park closure dates.

Leo raised the timing constraints, explaining that if they waited until the October 6 Park board meeting, the village board would not vote until October 13 - just two days before the park closes. This would leave minimal time for marketing and preparation.

Kruchko offered to reduce porta-potties to four units plus ADA and handwashing stations, eliminate food vendors except Sweet Dreams, provide their own trash bins, and consider lighting solutions. However, the board felt too many details remained unresolved, including police review for street closures and proper notification to residents.

Motion (Farrell/Conner) to table the Sweet Dreams car show for October 26 to the next meeting, contingent on new paperwork being filed. Carried (5-0).

3. Announcements -

- Bahr said the Splash Pad is closed for the season and that Jorge, the new employee is working out well.
- DPW is currently prepping for winter.
- Jungbluth met with another company for a fence but has not received a new quote for playground equipment additions. There is a tree in the river at Cottonwood that needs to be removed.
- Jenson said he is waiting for Budget approval also a lot of trees were down from the flood. DPW spent a lot of time at Bark River softball and HAAA did a lot of work there.
- Blonien is looking to book a new Carnival for Hometown 2026 as well as a horse drawn carriage for the Tree Lighting.
- Registration for fall programs are going well.
- The board briefly discussed the upcoming budget hearings scheduled for October 10 and 11. Tom Jenson mentioned they are still waiting for a second quote for fencing and will need to finalize playground equipment options including potential additions like climbers and monkey bars.

4. Adjourn

Motion (de Boer/Miller) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:52.

Respectfully submitted By Recording Secretary,

Deidre Bushey - Deputy Clerk