



# Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting

## Minutes

335 South Broadway  
De Pere, WI 54115  
[www.deperewi.gov](http://www.deperewi.gov)

Thursday, July 17, 2025

6:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers 335 S. Broadway

### I. Call to Order

**Present:** Jim Kneiszel, Randy Soquet, Shana Ledvina, Elizabeth McMasters, Amy Kunding

**Absent:** Mike Eserkahn

**Excused:** Melissa Thiel Collar, Connor Mason, James Lyga

### II. Public Comment on Matters not on the Agenda. Comments made during the public comment period shall pertain only to matters under the jurisdiction of the Board of Park Commissioners. §6-3(f) DPMC

None

### III. Items

1. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Board of Park Commissioners Minutes from the June 19, 2025 meeting.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the Board of Park Commissioners minutes from the June 19, 2025 meeting, seconded by James Kneiszel. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**RESULT:** Passed (UNANIMOUS)  
**MOVER:** Shana Ledvina  
**SECONDER:** Jim Kneiszel  
**AYES:** Jim Kneiszel, Randy Soquet, Shana Ledvina, Elizabeth McMasters, Amy Kunding

2. Consideration & Possible Action to Accept a \$1000 Donation from Gary & Lory Wieseckel for City Band Music Stands

Aldersperson Chandik Kunding moved to accept a \$1,000 donation from Gary and Lory Wieseckel for city band music stands, seconded by Randy Soquet. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**RESULT:** Passed (UNANIMOUS)  
**MOVER:** Amy Kunding  
**SECONDER:** Randy Soquet  
**AYES:** None

3. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve a New Special Event "Flocktoberfest" at Legion Park.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that Celebrate De Pere and the Pink Flamingos are looking at combining efforts and doing an event in the Fall. The event will be a musical event and held at Legion Park. The reason for this event coming to the Park Board is that any

special event that is being held in a park and has a projected attendance of over 1,000 people needs to get approval from the Park Board for the event. Representatives from both organizations are at the meeting tonight if you have any questions regarding the event.

James Kneiszel questioned if this event would draw as many attendees as the Pink Flamingo. Marty Kosobucki stated that with this being a new event, it is hard to estimate, but if this drew in half of the attendance of the Pink Flamingo in the first year that it would be a success. James Kneiszel stated that he is concerned about parking for the event.

Randy Soquet questioned if there was any discussion about utilizing Voyageur Park. Marty Kosobucki stated that it was mentioned, but organizers want to provide a venue that feels like there is good attendance and busy. The event organizers are here tonight and can discuss this in more detail.

Randy Soquet moved to open the meeting to public comment at 6:37 pm, seconded by Alderperson Defnet Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Gerard Ambrosius of Celebrate De Pere and Brandon Beard of the Pink Flamingos were there as representatives of Flocktoberfest. Brandon Beard addressed the use of Legion Park versus Voyageur Park. This will be a ticketed event. Voyageur Park is the most populated and used park in the city and the organizations didn't want to shut down the use of the park and disrupt anyone from using Voyageur Park and the Riverwalk. Legion Park would not be utilized as much in October, would provide a more intimate atmosphere, and has ties to the Pink Flamingo.

Jim Kneiszel questioned if they would pull the disc golf baskets. Brandon Beard stated that, no, they would not as the event would not be in that area.

Randy Soquet questioned where the event would be located in Legion Park. Gerard Ambrosius provided a revised map of the location.

Randy Soquet questioned what the admission price would be. Brandon Beard stated there would be a \$5 entry fee.

Randy Soquet questioned what type of bands would be playing. Brandon Beard stated the plan is to start with a polka band, then a country band, followed by a rock band and conclude the event with an all-around party band. There will be a total of four bands playing at the event.

James Kneiszel questioned if it would be a fully fenced-in area because it is a ticketed event. Brandon Beard stated yes, the event would be fully fenced in. The layout was chosen for security reasons and access for both fire and police. The layout would be where the skating rink is located in the park. The entrance would be along the left-field line and would require attendees to come through the field area, but the main activity would be where the skating rink is located in the winter.

Brandon Beard explained that this year between Celebrate and the Pink Flamingo, there will be about 1/4 million dollars that will go back into the community. This event will allow the organizations to add to this number. The selected beneficiary for this event is Hands Across De Pere, which will benefit both sides of the river.

Elizabeth McMasters stated that she thinks the event is a great event for the community.

Randy Soquet questioned if there were any noise complaints from the Pink Flamingo. Gerard Ambrosius stated that one of the reasons the location was selected was to be cognizant of the neighbors and to point the sound in a direction away from the houses and toward the trees.

Marty Kosobucki stated that the intent tonight is to review the event. All the details of the lighting and portable toilets will be part of the Special Event process.

Randy Soquet moved to close the meeting to public comment at 6:43 pm, seconded by James Kneiszel.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Randy Soquet moved to approve the new special event, Flocktoberfest, to be held at Legion Park, seconded by Alderperson Defnet Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Passed (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Randy Soquet
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Shana Ledvina
<b>AYES:</b>	Jim Kneiszel, Randy Soquet, Shana Ledvina, Elizabeth McMasters, Amy Kundinger

#### IV. Staff Updates

##### 1. Update on Donations under \$1,000 from Recreation Department

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, stated that attached is a memo documenting donations recently received by the department under \$1,000.

Randy Soquet thanked all the donors.

##### 2. Staff Update on Naming of the New Park in the Waterview Heights Subdivision

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that after several attempts to get ahold of McKim Boyd, they were finally able to connect. Marty stated that McKim is working on getting some information together, but is struggling to find options. They are still working on getting some information together.

##### 3. Staff Update on Rainbow Park Playground

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, stated that the old playground equipment at Rainbow Park has been removed. The sidewalk is planned to go in this week and the playground equipment is scheduled to be installed in the first or second week of August. The poured-in-place surfacing is bid out and will hopefully be scheduled to be in place in September. If everything goes as scheduled, the new playground should be done by the end of September.

##### 4. Staff Update on 2025 Beer Gardens

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that the city has new software, Placer.AI that has the ability to see how many people attend different events or areas of the city. The software targets the days and times of the events and tracks cell phones in the area. With the great weather we have been given, the average attendance for the beer gardens has been around 1,274 people. This far exceeds staff expectations going into the weekly events. The lowest attendance was a little over 1,000 and the highest attendance was around 1,600 people.

#### V. Future Agenda Items

None

#### VI. Adjournment

James Kneiszel moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:49 pm, seconded by Alderperson Chandik Kundinger. Upon vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Grace Lahtela