



Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Minutes

335 South Broadway
De Pere, WI 54115
www.deperewi.gov

Thursday, August 21, 2025

6:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers 335 S.
Broadway, De Pere, Wisconsin
54115

I. Call to Order

Present: Jim Kneiszel, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Elizabeth McMasters, Amy Kunding, Connor Mason

Absent:

Excused: Randy Soquet

Others Present: Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, Grace Lahtela, Administrative Assistant

Others Present Virtual: Brian Christnovich, Park Superintendent

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 July 17, 2025 meeting.

Aldersperson Defent Ledvina moved to approve the Board of Park Commissioners minutes from the July 17, 2025 meeting, seconded by Aldersperson Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Shana Ledvina
SECONDER:	Amy Kunding
AYES:	Jim Kneiszel, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Elizabeth McMasters, Amy Kunding

2. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve \$2,500 Donation from the Wochinske Family Foundation to the Recreation Scholarship Fund*

James Kneiszel questioned the balance on the account. Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, explained that the balance continues to grow with the donations. We continually give out scholarships, but this past year was a little lighter with scholarship requests.

Elizabeth McMasters moved to accept the \$2,500 donation from the Wochinske Foundation to the Recreation Scholarship Fund, seconded by Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Elizabeth McMasters
SECONDER:	Shana Ledvina
AYES:	Jim Kneiszel, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Elizabeth McMasters, Amy Kunding

3. Consideration and Possible Action to Accept a \$3,000 Donation from Aurora BayCare Sports Medicine to Sponsor Flag Football T-shirts *

Aldersperson Chandik Kunding moved to accept a \$3,000 donation from Aurora BayCare Sports Medicine to sponsor flag football t-shirts, seconded by Aldersperson Eserkaln. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Amy Kunding
SECONDER:	Mike Eserkaln
AYES:	Jim Kneiszel, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Elizabeth McMasters, Amy Kunding

4. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve Compressor Repairs at the De Pere Ice Arena with funding to come from the De Pere Ice Arena Fund *

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that the emergency repairs were already approved by the City Manager, and the majority of the costs will be covered by insurance. The remaining \$2,500 will be taken out of the Ice Arena Fund.

Aldersperson Chandik Kunding moved to approve the emergency compressor repairs at the De Pere Ice Arena with the additional funding to come from the De Pere Ice Arena Fund, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Amy Kunding
SECONDER:	Elizabeth McMasters
AYES:	Jim Kneiszel, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Elizabeth McMasters, Amy Kunding

5. Consideration and Possible Action Regarding the Ash Tree Grant from NEW Water *

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, stated that Brian Christnovich, Park Superintendent, is online if there are specific questions. Marty gave a quick summary of the grant proceedings to date, stating that the NEW Grant allowed us to offer free trees to residents that lost trees due to Emerald Ash Borer. The funding for this grant was pulled, and staff had to notify the residents that had requested free trees in the spring planting season that these free trees were no longer available. The majority of the free tree orders were canceled. After the spring planting season, staff has since been notified that the funding is now available again. Staff recommendation would be to try to utilize the grant funding and get the free trees planted. However, staff is requesting the city back the funding for the ordered trees if the grant is canceled again. Staff is also requesting to reimburse the residents that paid for trees during the spring planting that were eligible for free trees, with the funding for the trees planted to come from the grant. If approved, staff would reach out to all residents that requested a free tree in the spring to see if they are still interested. The remaining trees would then be offered to residents in the spring of 2026 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Aldersperson Chandik Kunding questioned how many people were originally interested in free trees. Brian Christnovich, Park Superintendent, stated that there were around 113 trees requested, with a potential total cost of around \$12,000. Marty Kosobucki stated that the \$12,000 would be a worst-case

scenario.

Elizabeth McMasters questioned how much the grant is for. Marty Kosobucki stated that the grant is for up to 250 trees.

Aldersperson Eserkaln questioned how quickly staff could get the trees planted. Marty Kosobucki stated we are looking to get this approved quickly, with staff reaching out to residents with the canceled spring orders to see if they are interested in a free tree this fall. Brian Christnovich added that the grant expires in August 2026, so all free trees would need to be planted by the spring 2026 season.

James Kneiszel questioned if the trees could be planted in the parks. Marty Kosobucki stated that the trees could be planted in the parks. If resident requests were exhausted, then staff would look at planting the remaining trees in parks.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the staff recommendation, seconded by Aldersperson Chandik Kundinger. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Shana Ledvina
SECONDER:	Amy Kundinger
AYES:	Jim Kneiszel, Elizabeth McMasters, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Amy Kundinger

6. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve SBC Project GV-15 at Kiwanis Park *

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that the Southern Bridge project requires a small piece of land at Kiwanis Park in order to complete the project. The portion of the park that is needed does not interfere with any of the active areas of the park. The area is a part of the conservancy that runs up to Red Maple Road, which is not developed.

James Kneiszel moved to approve SBC Project GV-15 at Kiwanis Park, seconded by Aldersperson Chandik Kundinger. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jim Kneiszel
SECONDER:	Amy Kundinger
AYES:	Jim Kneiszel, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Elizabeth McMasters, Amy Kundinger

IV. Staff Updates

1. Staff Update on Donations to Recreation Department

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that the memo located in the packet lists all the donations that were received by the Recreation Department that are under \$1,000. Marty thanked all the donors for supporting the Park and Recreation Department.

V. Future Agenda Items

James Kneiszel requested a recap of the Beer Gardens and thought moving forward. Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated there will be a staff update on the Beer Gardens next month, once we have all the final numbers prepared.

VI. Adjournment

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:43 pm, seconded by Aldersperson Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Shana Ledvina
SECONDER:	Amy Kunding
AYES:	Jim Kneiszel, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Elizabeth McMasters, Amy Kunding

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela