



# Board of Park Commissioners

## Regular Meeting

### Minutes

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

Thursday, November 20, 2025

6:30 PM

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

- I. Call to Order
- 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. Welcome New Teen Advisor Olivia Alberson

Randy Soquet welcomed the new teen advisor from the west side, Olivia Alberson.

- 2. Consideration and possible action to approve the Board of Park Commissioners minutes from the October 16, 2025 meeting.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the minutes from the October 16, 2025, Board of Park Commissioners meeting, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Passed (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Shana Ledvina
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Elizabeth McMasters
<b>AYES:</b>	Randy Soquet, Elizabeth McMasters, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Amy Kunding

- 3. Consideration & possible action to accept a \$1000 donation from Hockers Home Services for the Holiday Lights Walking Event.

Randy Soquet moved to accept a \$1,000 donation from Hockers Home Services for the holiday light walking event, seconded by Aldersperson Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Passed (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Randy Soquet
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amy Kunding
<b>AYES:</b>	Randy Soquet, Elizabeth McMasters, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Amy Kunding

- 4. Consideration and Possible action to accept a donation from Wisconsin United FC for improvements to the soccer fields at Southwest Park. \*

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to accept a donation from Wisconsin United FC for improvements to

the soccer fields at Southwest Park, seconded by Randy Soquet.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that the city has had a multi-year agreement with De Pere Select and De Pere Rapides soccer for the use of the fields at Southwest Park. These soccer organizations gave a very large donation to the development of the soccer fields at Southwest Park, and now the agreement has expired. Since the inception of this agreement, De Pere Select Soccer has merged with other soccer groups to become Wisconsin United FC. Wisconsin United FC would like to extend this agreement, which would give Wisconsin United FC priority use of some of the soccer fields at the park, but not exclusive use of the fields. With this new agreement, Wisconsin United FC would donate over \$60,000 over the next 7 years to construct an ADA-compliant route to the southerly area of the park, which will allow the field to be used for games; they also donated two soccer goals valued at over \$14,000, and are offering to fund a growth regulator application to the fields. If the growth regulator works, they would continue to fund the application of the product. Wisconsin United FC has also offered to help fundraiser for the additional parking lot that is part of the master plan for Southwest Park. If approved, the agreement would need to go to the legal department to draft and then to council for approval.

Randy Soquet questioned if the agreement is a 7-year agreement, not 18 years like the original agreement. Marty Kosobucki confirmed that it is a 7-year agreement.

Upon vote, the above motion passed unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Passed (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Shana Ledvina
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Randy Soquet
<b>AYES:</b>	Randy Soquet, Elizabeth McMasters, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Amy Kundering

5. Consideration and possible action to accept a donation from VFW Post 2113 to improve the memorial at Bicentennial Park, valued at \$17,610. \*

Randy Soquet moved to accept the donation from VFW Post #2113 to make improvements to the memorial at Bicentennial Park, seconded by Alderperson Chandik Kundering.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that the value of the donation listed in the memo is incorrect. The value of the improvements is \$23,616, which includes replacing the stone and the wall, including the monuments in the wall. The improvements are only to update the monument to its original condition, not make any changes. Marty Kosobucki stated that Randy Hansen from VFW Post #2113 is in attendance if there are any questions regarding the proposed improvements.

Alderperson Defnet Ledvina moved to open the meeting to public comments at 6:38 pm, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Randy Hansen from VFW Post #2113 stated that the Bicentennial Park improvements were originally dedicated on May 31, 1976. These improvements were made of concrete and stone, which is substantially heaving and breaking apart over time. The project improvements include removing the old stone and concrete and replacing it with bricks and pavers. The project would be completed in four phases. The first phase starts in April, which would be removing the old materials, the second phase would start in May with Lizer Landscaping rebuilding the area with stones and pavers, the third phase is to install the new bronze plaques from Creative Signs, and the fourth phase is a re-dedication ceremony. The plan is for the ceremony to take place on July 4th at 10:00 am, the same time America celebrates its 200th birthday.

Marty Kosobucki asked if Randy Hansen could explain the time capsule. Randy Hansen explained that there was a plaque attached to the wall that someone returned to the VFW Post. It states that there is a time capsule buried somewhere in the monument. There is no documentation of where the time capsule is located or what is in it. Once the time capsule is located when removing the old monument, the plan is to open it and give the contents to the De Pere Historical Society to permanently display at the new museum.

Randy Soquet questioned if there is going to be a time capsule buried in the new monument. Randy Hansen stated that it is possible to bury under a paver or in the wall, but there needs to be clear instructions on where it is buried.

Randy Soquet moved to close the meeting to public comments at 6:44 pm, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Marty Kosobucki clarified that part of the overall proposal does include staff time.

Upon vote, the above motion passed unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>(UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Randy Soquet
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amy Kunding
<b>AYES:</b>	Randy Soquet, Elizabeth McMasters, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Amy Kunding

#### IV. Discussion Items

##### 1. Discussion on the playground replacement at Carney Park.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that staff is looking for some guidance on replacing the playground equipment at Carney Park. Carney Park is a very small micro park, with a tiny playground. It is located within 1,200 feet of Willems Park, which has a brand-new playground. There is \$125,000 in the budget to replace the playground at Carney Park. In the past, the park board has elected to install poured-in-place surfacing for the new playground, which usually computes to at least the cost of the play equipment, and sidewalk needs to be installed. There are three different options available for Carney Park. If you go with wood chips, a much larger play structure could be installed. If you elect to have poured-in-place surfacing, you could go with a bigger structure and eliminate the swings, or go with a small play structure and keep the swings. Staff recommends going with a double bay swing and a smaller play structure, similar to what is currently at the park.

Randy Soquet questioned the teen advisors about what they think should be installed at Carney Park. Connor Mason, Teen Advisor, feels that something similar to what is currently at the park should be installed and stated that his little brother loves the swings. Olivia Alberson, Teen Advisor, stated she lives near the park and Willems Park. Since the new playground was installed at Willems Park, there have been a lot more kids using the new playground. She feels that the new playground should be similar to what is there currently.

Alderson Defnet Ledvina questioned if there would be a baby swing option. Marty Kosobucki stated that normally we install one or two tot swings and an ADA swing, along with the standard belt swings, but we will have to see what there is room for.

Alderson Chandik Kunding questioned if there was any thought to having more natural play areas,

like berms for the children to play on. She suggested maybe having the swing structure, but then natural berms versus a play structure. Marty Kosobucki stated that there are companies that offer these natural play areas. When going out for bid, we can request that companies look at play as a whole for the park.

## 2. Discussion on beer garden survey and potential changes.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that staff wanted to provide the results of the survey and the comments that were received. Staff has been talking internally regarding what changes should be made. One area that received many comments was the lack of food trucks. Next year there will be additional food trucks at the event. Another suggested change was the time of the music. Last year the music started at 5:30 pm and next year we will have the musicians start at 5:00 pm.

Randy Soquet questioned the comments regarding the location of the musician. Marty Kosobucki stated that there is no perfect solution to the music. There are people spread out throughout the park, and it is hard to get the music to project to all areas.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina questioned offering drinks other than beer. Marty Kosobucki stated that we will be offering water at the beer stand next year.

Aldersperson Eserkahn stated he thought the music was fine and questioned if adjusting the time would increase the cost. Marty Kosobucki stated that there was a slight increase in the budget to cover the increase in costs for the musician.

Connor Mason, Teen Advisor, questioned how consistent the music and food trucks are. Marty Kosobucki stated that during the summer we never have the same musician. We might bring back musicians from the previous year, but we never have the same musician twice during the same year. We try to offer a variety of food trucks as well, but we are limited to the ones that request to be part of the event. Staff has also been talking about reaching out to local organizations to see if there is any interest in participating as a fund-raising event, which would be much more economical for attendees.

## V. Staff Updates

### 1. Staff update on Ice Arena

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, stated that he, along with the mayor and city manager, had a meeting with all the user groups of the Ice Arena. The topic will be brought to the 2nd council meeting in December for discussion.

### 2. Staff update on donation — Life Jacket Grant from AOAP.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that Chelsea Moberg, Recreation Supervisor applied for, and receive a grant for life jackets for the pools.

## VI. Future Agenda Items

Connor Mason, Teen Advisor, mentioned that the improvements to the Legion Park disc golf course look amazing and commented that other out of the box additions to the course would be nice.

Randy Soquet questioned if there were any updates on the East River improvements.

VII. Adjournment

Alderperson Defnet Ledvina moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 pm, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Passed (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Shana Ledvina
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Elizabeth McMasters
<b>AYES:</b>	Randy Soquet, Elizabeth McMasters, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina, Amy Kunding

Respectfully submitted,  
Grace Lahtela