



Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Minutes

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

Thursday, February 19, 2026

6:30 PM

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

I. Call to Order

James Kneiszel called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm virtually and, due to being virtual, nominated Alderperson Defnet Ledvina to chair the meeting, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Alderperson Defnet Ledvina requested roll call.

Present: Jim Kneiszel (virtual), Elizabeth McMasters, Mike Eserkaln, Shana Ledvina

Absent:

Excused: Randy Soquet, Amy Kunding

Others Present: Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, Brian Christnovich, Park Superintendent (virtual), and Grace Lahtela, Administrative Assistant.

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 January 15, 2026 meeting.

Alderperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2026 Board of Park Commissioners meeting, seconded by Eserkaln. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

2. Consideration and possible action to approve a \$1,500 donation from Durr CTS Inc. for individual sponsorship of the Beer Gardens on June 16 & August 4, 2026. *

Aldersperson Eserkaln moved to accept a \$1,500 donation from Durr CTS Inc. for the individual sponsorship of the Beer Gardens on June 16 and August 4, 2026, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

3. Consideration and possible action to approve a Park Vending Permit with Swamp Donkey for a bait vending machine to be placed at Voyageur Park.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that Swamp Donkey had a Park Vending Permit for Voyageur Park prior to the Nelson Family Pavilion being constructed. Before approving another permit, staff wanted to make sure that the Park Board wanted this type of vending machine at the new facility. A picture of the vending machine is included in the board packet.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina questioned if the large bait trailer would still be parked at the Fox Point Boat Launch. Marty Kosobocki stated that the Swamp Donkey works with Dairy Queen on locating the trailer at this property.

Aldersperson Eserkaln questioned if the vending machine was used a lot. Marty Kosobucki stated that staff has never asked for a report from Swamp Donkey but the permit requires a \$75 monthly fee to cover the electrical costs of the machine and the owner wants to come back.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve a Park Vending Permit with Swamp Donkey for a bait vending machine to be placed at Voyageur Park, seconded by Aldersperson Eserkaln. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

4. Consideration and possible action on revising the Arboriculture Specifications Manual regarding tree planting.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, stated that Brian Christnovich, Park Superintendent is online and can respond if there are any specific questions. Marty Kosobucki explained that the Forestry Supervisor has noticed that during the tree order process, there are many residents that are requesting smaller stature trees to be planted in an area where a large tree could be located. Staff is requesting that language be added to the Arboriculture Specification Manual stating the Forestry Department has the ability to request that the right type of tree is planted in the right location. This would help deter smaller stature trees being planted in an area where a large tree can be planted.

Brian Christnovich, Park Superintendent, stated that the purpose of providing the small ornamental trees is to go under power lines. The benefits of the larger stature tree are that they provide better storm water runoff, better air quality, provide energy savings, increase property values and are better overall for the urban forest.

Elizabeth McMasters questioned what constitutes a small ornamental tree. Brian Christnovich stated that the small ornamental trees, like the lilac or crab apple, get to be a maximum of 15'-25' tall, where a mature maple tree can get to 60'-75' tall, which provides more benefits to the urban forest.

Elizabeth McMasters moved to approve staff recommended revisions to the Arboriculture Specifications Manual regarding tree planting, seconded by Alderperson Defnet Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

5. Consideration and possible action to approve a pop-up Beer Garden fundraiser with Stubborn Brothers to benefit the dog park. *

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that Stubborn Brothers Brewery reached out to staff to see if we were interested in holding a pop-up beer garden to benefit the dog park. Staff reached out to legal to see what staff would need to do to allow this event to happen. Stubborn Brothers would provide the beer and the trailer, and staff would run the beer garden. The city would purchase the beer from Stubborn Brothers and then Stubborn Brothers would donate the cost of the product back to the city as a donation to the dog park.

Alderperson Eserkaln questioned if this event would be part of the normal beer garden. Marty Kosobucki stated that Stubborn Brothers would like this event to take place on a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday.

Connor Mason, Teen Advisor, questioned if this event would be the same magnitude as the regular beer gardens with food trucks and everything. Marty Kosobucki stated that he didn't think it would be as large for a first time event, but food trucks are a possibility. Also, parking might deter some people as convenient parking will be limited at the dog park.

Elizabeth McMasters moved to approve a pop-up beer garden fundraiser with Stubborn Brothers to benefit the dog park, seconded by Alderperson Eserkaln. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

6. Consideration and possible action to approve a 3-year agreement with Kay Distributing as the beer vendor for the Beer Gardens. *

Alderperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve a 3-year agreement with Kay Distributing as the vendor for the beer gardens, seconded by Alderperson Eserkaln.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, stated that Kay Distributing has been the

distributor for the beer gardens since the beginning. Kay Distributing offers a wide variety of local craft beer and is great to work with. Staff is requesting a 3-year agreement with them, instead of yearly.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

7. Consideration and possible action to approve the proposal from Graef Consulting for \$19,500 to provide design and construction oversight of the Wilson Park renovation project. *

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the proposal from Graef Consulting for \$19,500 to provide design and construction oversight of the Wilson Park renovation project, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters.

Elizabeth McMasters questioned what the steps are for the renovation project at Wilson Park. Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that we already have a conceptual design prepared for Wilson Park and part of this agreement is for the consultant to first verify with the Park Board that this is still the design that is wanted. If this design is approved, then the consultant will prepare the technical design of the project and place the project out for bid. The consultant will also work with the city through the construction phase to verify that everything is done correctly.

Marty Kosobucki stated that staff have worked with Graef previously, and Graef is the consultant that did the conceptual design of the park, so they are familiar with the project.

Upon vote, the above motion passed unanimously.

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

8. Consideration and possible action to approve the Beer Garden Revenue Policy. *

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that council approved that all proceeds from the beer gardens would go to a park fund for park projects, but we never had a policy on how the funds were to be allocated. Staff wants to put together a policy so it is transparent about how the revenues from the beer gardens are to be distributed. The recommendation is for the Park Board to review the revenues around the same time as the CIP. Recommendations would be submitted to the City Manager and the Finance Director on what projects the Park Board would like to see considered. This would be done before the budget is developed.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the proposed Beer Garden Revenue Policy, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

IV. Discussion Items

None

V. Staff Updates

1. Staff update on a \$750 donation received from IEI General Contractors, Inc. for the June 30, 2026 individual sponsorship of the Beer Gardens.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that staff has the ability to approve all donations under \$1,000 and bring them as a staff update to the Park Board.

Marty Kosobucki stated that IEI General Contractors is coming back to the beer garden as an individual sponsor of the June 30, 2026 event.

2. Staff update on \$750 donation received from Immel Construction Inc. for the June 9, 2026 individual sponsorship of the Beer Gardens.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that Immel Construction EI General Contractors is coming back to the beer garden as an individual sponsor of the June 30, 2026 event.

3. Staff update on major park projects.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry gave a brief update on some of the major projects for 2026. There are a lot of projects happening in 2026 and staff wanted to provide an update on the status of these projects.

Alderson Eserkaln questioned if there were any projects that staff was really excited about and the intent of the robotic mowers. Marty Kosobucki stated that the intent of the robotic mowers is for them to cut the Kelly Danen and Southwest Park baseball fields all summer long. There will be some notification placed at the fields explaining what the robotic mowers are and to contact the Parks Department with any questions or concerns.

4. Staff update on 2025 donations.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that every year staff brings a combined list of all donations that were received by the department. The community support that the department receives is amazing.

Alderson Eserkaln thanked everyone for the donations.

VI. Future Agenda Items

None

VII. Adjournment

Alderson Eserkaln moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 pm, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters.

Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela