



Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Minutes

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

Thursday, March 19, 2026

6:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers 335 S.
Broadway

I. Call to Order

James Kneiszel asked for a motion for Alderperson Defnet Ledvina to chair the meeting. This motion was made by Alderperson Chandik Kunding, seconded by Alderperson Eserkaln. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Present: Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Elizabeth McMasters, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kunding, Shana Ledvina

Absent:

Excused: Randy Soquet, Connor Mason

Others Present: Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry; Paula Rahn, Recreation Superintendent; Cindy Lee, Recreation Supervisor; 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. Welcome new Board of Park Commissioner member Jeremy Beck.

The Park Board welcomed the newest Park Board member, Jeremy Beck.

2. Consideration and Possible Action to Approve the Board of Park Commissioners Minutes from the February 19, 2026 meeting.

James Kneiszel moved to approve the Board of Park Commissioners minutes from the February 19, 2026 meeting, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters. Upon vote, the passed unanimously.

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

3. Fairwell to Cindy Lee, Recreation Supervisor.

The Park Board recognized Recreation Supervisor, Cindy Lee, in her retirement after almost 19 years with the city.

4. Consideration and possible action to approve a new special event permit for the Democratic Party of Brown County, co-hosting with Indivisible Brown County, for a No Kings - De Pere walk at Voyageur Park.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that this is a new event that came about quickly. It was submitted after the Special Event permit deadline and with the anticipated attendance of over 1,000 people, the event requires Park Board approval.

James Kneiszel moved to approve the No Kings - De Pere walk at Voyageur Park for the Democratic Party of Brown County, co-hosting with Indivisible Brown County, seconded by Alderperson Chandik Kundinger. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

5. Request by Brown County Community Women's Club to waive rental fee. *

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, explained that one of the groups that meets at the Community Center, that has met there since the start of the Community Center, has grown and is requesting an additional room for their monthly meetings at no charge. Policy states that staff is only allowed to grant one free room per month to any organization. The only option for the group is to ask Park Board for approval. Staff is apprehensive about waiving the fee. If it is done for one organization, we would have to do it for others and this would cut into the rooms available for general community use. If the Park Board is interested in pursuing the fee waiver, then staff recommends the policy be reviewed and possibly changed.

James Kneiszel questioned if there was a bigger room for the organization to use. Paul Rahn, Recreation Superintendent, explained that they currently use the largest room on the upper level of the Community Center, in addition to setting up their registration table in the lobby. The organization is requesting the additional use of the Oak room for registration purposes and to set up displays. The lower level is already used on their meeting days for programming, so moving them to the lower level is not an option.

James Kneiszel stated his concern is that other people wanting to use the Community Center and rooms not being available. Paula Rahn did state that staff does have the option to bump the organization to a different room if there is a request for a private rental.

Alderperson Defnet Ledvina stated that staff is currently accommodating the group and allowing them to set up information in the lobby as well.

James Kneiszel moved to deny the request from Brown County Community Women's club to waive rental fees for an additional room, seconded by Jeremy Beck. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

6. Consideration and possible action to approve the ATM Site / Location Agreement with Convenient ATM Services to provide an ATM at the Nelson Family Pavilion for the Beer Gardens. *

Aldersperson Eserkaln moved to approve the ATM Site / Location Agreement with Convenient ATM Services to provide an ATM at the Nelson Family Pavilion for the beer gardens, seconded by Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

7. Consideration and possible action on implementing an ordinance regarding power loading at the boat launches. *

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina stated that she totally agrees with the ordinance but is wondering how the ordinance will be enforced and if there will be cameras installed at the boat launches. Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, explained that with there being an ordinance, the police can then enforce and issue tickets. The installation of cameras would be another topic.

Jeremy Beck questioned if there was any signage posted. Marty Kosobucki stated that because of the issues, there is signage warning people to launch at their own risk and that power loading is not allowed; however, nothing can be enforced without the ordinance.

Jeremy Beck questioned if the ordinance is passed, would the signage be updated to reflect the ordinance? Marty Kosobucki stated that if the ordinance is approved, the signage would be updated to reflect the ordinance. Once the ordinance is posted, if the rules are broken, then the individuals could be cited.

James Kneiszel questioned if the ordinance would apply to all boat launches. Marty Kosobucki stated that it would apply to all three launches and signage would be posted at all three.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve implementing an ordinance regarding power loading at the boat launches, seconded by Jeremy Beck. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

8. Consideration and possible action to approve new playground equipment for Carney Park.*

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, stated that staff reviewed all proposals to make sure they met the requirements. Staff did request that each manufacturer provide at least one non-traditional playground because of the proximity this park has to another park. The proposals were reviewed by staff and a survey was posted for community input and comments. The results and

comments received are included in the packet for review. In summary, option #1 from MWP received the most votes, followed by Lee option #2, and then Boland option #1. Colors for the playground can be determined later. Staff recommends the approval of option #1 from MWP.

James Kneiszel questioned if this playground would include fall surfacing. Marty Kosobucki stated that it will have some type of fall surfacing which will be a separate project.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve MWP option #1 for the Carney Park playground, seconded by Elizabeth McMasters. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

9. Consideration and possible action to approve new playground equipment for the Waterview Heights subdivision park.*

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that with this proposal, manufacturers were asked to include at least one design that has a separate smaller child play set. Again, the proposals were reviewed by staff and a survey was posted for community input and comments. The results and comments received are included in the packet for review. The votes for the playgrounds were close in numbers, with option #1 from Lee Recreation getting the most votes, followed by option #2 from Lee Recreation, and third was option #2 from MWP. One additional thing to note is that MWP would be willing to include an additional bench in their proposal.

James Kneiszel questioned if MWP would give a discount if we purchased both playgrounds from them. Marty Kosobucki stated that we would need to go by the bid proposals for each.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina stated that the Voyageur Park playground has a separate small play structure for the little kids, and she loved that option.

Jeremy Beck moved to approve the option #1 proposal from Lee Recreation for the Wateview Heights subdivision park, seconded by Aldersperson Eserkaln. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

10. Consideration and possible action to approve a park name for the new park in the Waterview Heights Subdivision. *

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that this item has been tabled at the last couple of Park Board meetings with the hopes of having a full board present when the item is voted on. Tonight we are down one member, but one vote should not sway the outcome of the vote. Marty also explained that the Park Board had requested staff to reach out to the Historical Society for recommendations for a new park name. Staff reached out to McKim Boyd and the recommendation from the Historical Society would be Volunteer Park. This references the volunteer Rifle Company F, which

was a volunteer division from the Civil War that was from the De Pere area and a copy of an article regarding the rifle company is included in the packet. The name Volunteer Park could also serve as a reference to all the volunteers in the city. If the Park Board is interested, there could be a plaque installed at the park referencing the volunteer Rifle Company F and the history behind the name.

Aldersperson Eserkaln commented that he likes the name Volunteer Park.

Aldersperson Chandik Kundingler stated she was fine with Volunteer Park.

James Kneiszel agreed that he liked the name and would like to incorporate the history of Rifle Company F at the park.

Marty Kosobucki reminded the Park Board that the plan for the park is to include a gazebo and this would be a good place for the plaque once it is built.

Aldersperson Chandik Kundingler moved to approve the name Volunteer Park and to incorporate a historical plaque at the Waterview Heights subdivision park, seconded by Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

11. Consideration and possible action to approve design consultant for Voyageur Park Docks*

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the proposal from Graef for the design consultant for the Voyageur Park docks, seconded by James Kneiszel. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

IV. Discussion Items

None

V. Staff Updates

1. Staff Update on \$750 Donation from Kay Distributing Co., Inc. to De Pere Beer Gardens.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that Kay Distributing provided a \$750 donation to be a sponsor at one of the 2026 beer garden events.

2. Staff Update on \$750 Donation from GRAEF to De Pere Beer Gardens.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that Graef provided a \$750 donation to be a sponsor at one of the 2026 beer garden events.

3. Staff Update on \$750 Donation from Hockers Home Services Inc. to De Pere Beer Gardens.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that Hockers Home Services provided a \$750 donation to be a sponsor at one of the 2026 beer garden events.

4. Staff Update on \$750 Donation from One Source Technologies, LLC to De Pere Beer Gardens.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that One Source Technologies provided a \$750 donation to be a sponsor at one of the 2026 beer garden events. Currently, there is one sponsorship opportunity remaining for the 2026 beer gardens.

5. Staff Update on Donations from De Pere Optimist Club and Rennes Group for 2026 Events/Programs.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated that the De Pere Optimist Club provided a \$500 donation for Summer Camp t-shirts and \$500 for the Easter Egg Hunt and Rennes Group provided a \$200 donation for senior luncheons.

6. Staff Update on 2026 De Pere Beer Garden Lineup.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, provided a sneak peek at some of the items that are planned for the upcoming beer gardens. He stated there are two acts coming from Nashville this year. One will provide a beach theme which we are coordinating with the Green Bay Parrot Club, and the other one is Kirstie Kraus who is originally from De Pere. The cups were very popular last year, so this year we will be offering mugs for purchase. We ordered 200 mugs, so a few more than what we had last year.

VI. Future Agenda Items

None

VII. Adjournment

Elizabeth McMasters moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 pm, seconded by Alderperson Defnet Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela