



# Board of Park Commissioners

## Regular Meeting

### Minutes

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

Thursday, May 21, 2026

6:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers 335 S. Broadway

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The May 21, 2026 Board of Park Commissioners meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Randy Soquet.

#### 2. ROLL CALL

**Present:** Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Elizabeth McMasters (virtual), Randy Soquet, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kunding, Shana Ledvina, Olivia Alberson, Connor Mason

**Absent:**

**Excused:**

Others present: Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, Brian Christnovich (virtual), Park Superintendent, Grace Lahtela, Administrative Assistant, and Christine Pichler from Graef.

#### 3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

#### 4. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Elect Chairperson for the Board of Park Commissioners.

Aldersperson Chandik Kunding moved to elect Randy Soquet as the Chairperson for the Board of Park Commissioners, seconded by James Kneiszel. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

##### B. Elect Vice Chairperson for the Board of Park Commissioners.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to elect James Kneiszel Vice Chairperson of the Board of Park Commissioners, seconded by Aldersperson Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Passed (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Shana Ledvina
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Amy Kunding

<b>AYES:</b>	Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Elizabeth McMasters, Randy Soquet, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kunding, Shana Ledvina
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- C. Consideration and possible action to approve the Board of Park Commissioners minutes from the April 16, 2026 meeting.

Randy Soquet moved to approve the Board of Park Commissioners minutes from the April 16, 2026 meeting, seconded by Jeremy Beck. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

- D. Consideration and possible action to approve modifications to the Preserve stormwater pond.

Alderperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the modifications to the Preserve stormwater pond, seconded by Randy Soquet.

Eric Rakers, City Engineer, explained that the Humana Complex has been developing over the last several years. The next phases of both the Bungalows and Phoenix of De Pere are now being developed. Each development requires its own stormwater management plan. As part of these new developments, city staff has been working with the developer on options for the stormwater management for the properties. The proposed option is to increase the size of the Preserve stormwater pond. This increase will not only cover the new development, but it will also include treating 78 acres from Lawrence Drive that currently is treated at the Scheuring Road pond. This is a big benefit for the city as it is hard to meet the MS4 permit requirements from the DNR. This proposal also adds benefits to the park system, as the larger pond will look nicer and there will be a path added connecting the trail to the development, enhancing the connectivity of the trail. As part of the planning process, the pond would then be dedicated to the city.

James Kneiszel questioned the size of the pond and if it would require fencing. Eric Rakers stated it was probably at least twice as large as the existing pond. It will not be any closer to the trail, as it starts at the existing stormwater bank and will be built to the south. The pond will be built to DNR standards and will have natural vegetation around the pond, not fencing.

James Kneiszel questioned if the project would include cost sharing with the developers. Eric Rakers confirmed there would be a cost split with the developers depending on how much flowage comes from each development.

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>	Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Elizabeth McMasters, Randy Soquet, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kunding, Shana Ledvina

- E. Consideration and possible action to accept a tree donation from Green Bay Packer and Green Bay Packaging valued at \$2,500.\*

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to accept a tree donation from the Green Bay Packers and Green Bay Packaging valued at \$2,500, seconded by Aldersperson Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

- F. Consideration and possible action to accept a donation from WI United FC Soccer to apply plant growth regulators to two soccer fields at Southwest Park valued at \$2,500.\*

Jeremy Beck moved to accept a donation from WI United FC Soccer to apply plant growth regulators on two soccer fields at Southwest Park valued at \$2,500, seconded by Randy Soquet. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

- G. Consideration and possible action to approve the Unified School District of De Pere to include Optimist Park as a distribution location for the summer meal program.

Jeremy Beck moved to approve the Unified School District of De Pere including Optimist Park as a distribution location for the summer meal program, seconded by Randy Soquet. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

- H. Consideration and possible action to revise the tree planting program to include proposed funding in 2027.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve the revisions to the tree planting program to include proposed funding in 2027, seconded by Randy Soquet.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that this is not approving any funding, this is approving changes to the existing policy we have in place. Currently, if a tree dies in the right of way, the city would not replace the tree, the homeowner would need to purchase a new tree if one is to be planted. With this amendment, if a terrace tree needs to be removed because it dies, the city would fund the tree replacement if the homeowner wants a new tree.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina expressed her appreciation of this policy change.

James Kneiszel questioned why the homeowner would have the option of replanting a tree. Marty Kosobucki stated that if a resident is forced to have a tree that they do not want, they won't take care of the tree, or purposefully kill the tree. This was brought up at the Council level and there was not a lot of support for forcing a resident to plant a tree if one is not wanted.

James Kneiszel questioned if staff would try to convince the owners to plant a new tree. Marty Kosobucki stated that the City Forester will talk to the owners and try to convince them into planting a new tree, but will not force the issue if residents do not want one. The idea would be to take advantage of the homeowners that want and will embrace the idea of receiving a free tree.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina stated that the policy could always be updated if needed. Marty Kosobucki agreed that the policy could be updated. Staff did survey other municipalities and most do not force homeowners to plant trees.

James Kneiszel questioned if extensive planting is allowed in the right of way. Marty Kosobucki stated this would be in the jurisdiction of Public Works, but believes there are limitations on what can be planted in the right of way.

Connor Mason questioned what happens if funding is exhausted prior to the Fall tree planting. Marty Kosobucki stated if funding is exhausted and there are trees on the list that are requested, then these remaining trees would carry over to the following year and be on the top of the list to get planted.

Aldersperson Eserkaln questioned the number of ash trees located in the terrace that still need to be removed. Marty Kosobucki stated that all the ash trees in the right of way that are not being treated have been removed. Now staff is dealing with residential concerns with dead ash trees on private property and trying to get the homeowners to remove them.

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>	Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Elizabeth McMasters, Randy Soquet, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kundinger, Shana Ledvina

- I. Consideration and possible action to approve an agreement with Brown County for access to city property at Perkofski Boat Launch for trail extension.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to approve an agreement with Brown County for access to city property at Perkofski Boat Launch for trail extension, seconded by Aldersperson Eserkaln.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that the existing trail runs about 90% of the way. Brown County is looking to extend the trail so it runs from Ashwaubamay to the Perkofski Boat Launch. In order to connect to our trail, the County needs to come onto our property.

Upon vote, the above motion passed unanimously.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Passed (UNANIMOUS)</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Shana Ledvina
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mike Eserkaln
<b>AYES:</b>	Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Elizabeth McMasters, Randy Soquet, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kundingner, Shana Ledvina

5. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Consideration and possible action to approve the thrid quarter financial statements for the De Pere Ice Arena.

Randy Soquet moved to approve the third quarter financial statements for the De Pere Ice Arena, seconded by James Kneiszel.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, clarified that at last month's Park Board meeting, there were questions if the noted outstanding revenues were included in the stated revenue amounts, or whether they would be in addition to the stated dollar amounts. After discussions with Don Chilson from Brown County Ice Management, he confirmed those outstanding balances were not included in the revenue figures.

Upon vote, the above motion passed, with Elizabeth McMasters abstaining.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>Passed</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Randy Soquet
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Jim Kneiszel
<b>AYES:</b>	Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Randy Soquet, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kundingner, Shana Ledvina
<b>NAYS:</b>	None
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	Elizabeth McMasters

- B. Consideration and possible action to approve the plans and specifications for the Wilson Park development project.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry explained that the item is to approve the final conceptual design for Wilson Park and also discuss how to move forward with the project. There are a few obstacles with the bidding for this project. After the last park board meeting, staff and representatives from Graef met with members of the De Pere Historical Society to obtain their guidance on the two historical items at the park, the school foundation and the monument. The Historical Society feels that the monument should not be moved and be left where it is. They feel that with the uncertainty of the monument and how fragile it is, the trail could be relocated around the existing location of the monument and landscaped like the memorial tree. The Historical Society would like to see the monument refurbished. However, they feel it is more important to have the other park improvements completed first and, if there are funds available, then see about refurbishing the monument. The Historical Society was not in favor of doing an underground sonar, but feels part of the project should include highlighting the area of the foundation that is currently visible and to include educational signage highlighting the foundation. We were hoping that a portion of the foundation would be near the proposed speaking platform and large green space, but the foundation is not located there. With the new design, a concrete area was added off the trail with a bench, to highlight the old school's foundation.

Marty Kosobucki explained that there are some obstacles with bidding for the project. The original plan was for the park board to approve the design today and, once the technical design is completed by Graef,

have the Engineering Department put the project out for bids. After speaking with the Engineering Department, with their current project load, they cannot get to this project for at least a month. With this schedule, the project would not be bid until August and the Engineering Department thinks the bids might come in higher. We can either wait for the Engineering Department to go out for bid, or we could alter the agreement with Graef for them to do the bidding for the project. Another possible option would be to have the concrete portion of the project be included in the city's current sidewalk program and then go out for bids for the rest of the project. This option might result in a better price for the concrete and, with a condensed project, it might open up the bidding to landscapers and not just general contractors.

James Kneiszel commented that he appreciates the creative approach of staff and doesn't care if the sidewalk is done first and if the project is not completed all at once.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina stated she likes the option of doing the concrete with the other city project and questioned if staff requested a quote from Graef for bidding out the project.

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina questioned if City Council had to approve the design. Marty Kosobucki stated that City Council does not have to approve the design, but they will need to approve the final contract for the project.

Christine Pichler from Graef reviewed the updated layout of Wilson Park stating the location of the trail was adjusted slightly, taking into consideration the suggestion from the Historical Society to leave the historical monument where it is currently located. The landscape architect has begun the landscape design by adding the resting knolls and options for plantings. Christine discussed the cost opinion provided and stated the cost opinion is for the trail to be done with crusher dust and includes the concrete for the speaking pad or bench platforms that would be out of concrete. Christine reviewed the suggested furnishings and options for the resting knolls, which would be the smaller knolls for mower accessibility. The Historical Society is having several signs made to put up throughout the city, so the plan would be for these historical markers to match these signs. Marty Kosobucki added that the Historical Society already has a sign developed for the monument and would be willing to write the verbiage for the foundation marker, and the city would be responsible for purchasing the signs.

James Kneiszel questioned if the concrete alternative was chosen, would be a deduction for the crusher dust. Christine Pichler stated that no, there would be just the add-on charge for the concrete. James Kneiszel questioned if there was a consensus to go with the concrete trail. Marty Kosobucki stated that from his memory, the members were in favor of the concrete trail if money allows.

Randy Soquet questioned if the project should even be bid on with crusher dust, or just bid the concrete. Marty Kosobucki advised them to leave the bid as crusher dust, with the concrete alternative.

James Kneiszel questioned the removal of the hammock stands. Randy Soquet stated that he thought it was decided to remove them based on the changing demographics of the neighborhood and staff could always install them later if they are wanted.

James Kneiszel stated he would prefer square picnic tables and would like to see more tables.

Randy Soquet questioned the agenda item and if furnishings needed to be decided on tonight. Marty Kosobucki stated that the park board would need to make a determination on what they would like to see for this project so it can go out for bids.

Randy Soquet questioned if the unspecified trees on the new drawing are new trees or existing. Christine

Pichler stated that all the trees in the drawing exist.

Randy Soquet questioned if the planting would be native to Wisconsin plantings. Christine Pichler stated that she feels that can be an option.

Alderson Chandik Kunderling stated that she likes the simplicity of the design and that it allows for budget flexibility. She also is in favor of using the city sidewalk contractor for the concrete if allowable.

Jim Kneiszel questioned the uplighting that was in the original drawing. Marty Kosobucki questioned if it was the uplighting or the solar lighting in the trees. There are complications with them and the uplighting is an easy target for vandalism.

An in-depth discussion took place regarding the furniture for Wilson Park. Marty Kosobucki verified that the final vote was for the first Victor Stanley bench pictured RB-28-QUIK, the wood-looking Walden Park picnic table by Thomas Steele, the Ashbery Light by Landscape Forms, and the Victor Stanley trash receptacle SD-42-QUIK.

Randy Soquet opened the meeting to public comment at 7:39 pm, seconded by Alderson Defnet Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Joe Nicks stated that he is just seeing the new plans tonight. He stated that for the past 5 years there have been communications about the Gettysburg address monument. He is alright with it being left where it is located, as long as there is some signage highlighting it, but it does need some type of improvements. There are businesses that do refurbishing of cast iron, and he would like to be involved in the refurbishing of the monument if done. He is pleased that there is a speaking platform to activate the park, but feels that it is a little small the way that it is drawn up now. If the platform was bigger, it would open up more options. Regarding the bidding for the project, he understands the Engineering Department is busy with other projects, but this project has the attention of three council members and the mayor in attendance at the last park board meeting, he feels it should be a higher priority for the Engineering Department.

James Anderson stated that with this project, the entire park is being redone for what the city would normally spend on a new playground at a park. He is pleased to see all the green space and is in favor of having some sophisticated uplighting added to the design. It doesn't need to be ground lighting, it could be located in the trees and would look spectacular.

Randy Soquet moved to close the meeting at 7:44 pm, seconded by Alderson Defnet Ledvina. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Alderson Defnet Ledvina questioned if uplighting components could be added to the bid. Marty Kosobucki questioned if the lighting should be on the ground, or in the trees. Alderson Defnet Ledvina asked if staff could research the different options and put them in the bid. Marty Kosobucki stated the uplighting could be put in the bid as an additional alternative bid. James Kneiszel stated he liked the concept in the original plans and was disappointed that the uplighting was not in the new plan. Elizabeth McMasters stated she likes the idea of uplighting as well. After discussion, Marty Kosobucki stated that they could look at adding uplighting and would try to simulate what was pictured in the original design and would look into wired lighting options.

James Kneiszel questioned if there is a way of looking into restoring and protecting the monument. Marty Kosobucki stated the intent is to refurbish the monument if there are funds available at the end of the

project. Cost estimates run between \$2,500 - \$7,500 and staff would want it to be done by someone that has experience and is insured. The plan would be to work with the Historical Society, which also wants the monument to be refurbished and protected, but wants the park to be done as well.

Alderperson Chandik Kundinger stated she would like at least one more permanent picnic table and feels it could be located by the evergreen cluster.

Randy Soquet moved to approve the design as presented with the addition of a third permanent picnic table, an alternate bid for uplighting, the Victor Stanley bench RB-28-QUIK, the Thomas Steel Walden Park picnic table, with one being ADA compliant, the Landscape Forms Ashbery lights and the Victor Stanley SD-42-QUIK trash receptacle, and to add the concrete work to the existing city contract if possible and then continue with the bidding process, seconded by Jeremy Beck. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

6. INFORMATIONAL

A. Staff Update on \$500 Donation from Kiwanis Club of De Pere to Recreation Scholarship Fund

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, updated the Park Board on a \$500 donation from the Kiwanis Club of De Pere to the Recreation Scholarship Fund.

B. Staff update on Brown County Ice Management lease amendment.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, stated that due to timing constraints, the Lease Amendment with Brown County Ice Management for the Ice Arena was taken right to Common Council for approval. The amendment is for one year, with an additional one-year extensions if both parties are in agreement.

C. 2025 Aquatics Annual Report

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that this report covers attendance, revenues, concessions, saves, and a recap of what the Aquatic season looked like last year. This report was accompanied by an update on Legion Pool at the Council meeting.

Randy Soquest questioned the status of Legion Pool. Marty Kosobucki stated that it is still running and there have not been any major mechanical issues yet this year.

Olivia Alberson, Teen Advisor, questioned if the bathrooms will be functioning all of this year. Marty Kosobucki stated that the sewer lines were lined last year, so hopefully this will solve the issues.

D. Staff update on donations.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry stated this is a staff update on a couple of donations the Recreation Department received for music stands.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Jeremy Beck asked if staff could research the possibility of a path being developed from the Mystic Creek Subdivision, off of Lawrence Drive, to connect with Southwest Park. Marty Kosoucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, stated this is in the long range plans for the park, but could be brought up for discussion if it should be listed in the CIP.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Aldersperson Defnet Ledvina moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 pm, seconded by Jeremy Beck. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Grace Lahtela