



Board of Park Commissioners

Regular Meeting

Minutes

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

Thursday, June 18, 2026

6:30 PM

City Hall, Council Chambers 335 S.
Broadway

1. Call to Order

Randy Soquet called the June 18, 2026, Board of Park Commissioners meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

2. Roll Call

Present: Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Randy Soquet, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kunding, Olivia Alberson

Absent:

Excused: Elizabeth McMasters, Shana Ledvina, Connor Mason

Also present: Marty Kosobuckii, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, Kelly Barker, Administrative Assistant, and members of the public.

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. Consideration and possible action to approve the Board of Park Commissioners minutes from the May 21, 2026 meeting.

James Kneiszel moved to approve the Board of Park Commissioners minutes from the May 21, 2026 meeting, seconded by Alderperson Eserkaln. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Jim Kneiszel
SECONDER:	Mike Eserkaln
AYES:	Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Randy Soquet, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kunding, Olivia Alberson

- B. Consideration and possible action to approve an easement with WPS for the De Pere Ice Arena electrical upgrades.*

Randy Soquet moved to approve an easement with WPS for the De Pere Ice Arena electrical upgrades, seconded by Amy Chandik Kunding. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Randy Soquet
SECONDER:	Amy Kunding
AYES:	Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Randy Soquet, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kunding, Olivia Alberson

C. Consideration and possible action to approve an amendment to the Graef consulting agreement for the Voyageur Park docks.*

Alderperson Eserkaln moved to approve the amendment to the Graef consulting agreement for the Voyageur Park dock project, seconded by Randy Soquet.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, explained that the amendment is for additional funding for Graef to coordinate the bid packet and bidding for the project. Originally, the Engineering Department was going to prepare the bid packet, but due to work load, they are unable to do it now.

Upon vote, the above motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Mike Eserkaln
SECONDER:	Randy Soquet
AYES:	Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Randy Soquet, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kunding, Olivia Alberson

D. Discussion on Southwest Park access trail from the Mystic Creek subdivision.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, stated that staff is looking for some guidance on the topic of adding an access trail from the Mystic Creek subdivision to Southwest Park. When the Mystic Creek Subdivision was being developed, the city requested an easement to be provided through the subdivision to gain access to the property that is continuous with Southwest Park. This would allow the residents of the Mystic Creek Subdivision easier access to Southwest Park. The easement was provided, but the trail project has not been added to the capital improvement plan. Recently, there has been more interest from the residents for this access trail. Staff is proposing to add a request in the 2027 budget for a consultant be hired to determine the best location of the trail and how to establish it. This is a woody area with low areas. The consultant would determine the best way to develop the trail in a cost-effective and safe manner. If the park board agrees, staff will include it in the proposed 2027 budget.

James Kneiszel asked if the trail would be a more rustic one. Marty Kosobucki stated that this would be for the consultant to decide. It would be great to have a hard surface trail, but it would be up to the consultant to determine what is the best surface. There is also a creek that the trail will need to cross.

Jeremy Beck stated that he knows people who live in the subdivision with small children, and the residents he has spoken with would be happy with a crusher dust trail. Currently, they have to either walk all the way around or drive to Southwest Park. Marty Kosobucki stated that realistically, currently the residents would either need to navigate through the woods or drive to the park.

The Park Board agreed that staff should include requesting a consultant to develop a trail to Southwest Park from the Mystic Creek Subdivision in the 2027 budget.

5. Informational

A. Staff update on the Wilson Park project.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, provided a memo to the members regarding updates to the Wilson Park project. Marty stated that staff met with Graef after the last park board meeting and there is no way to put wired accent lighting in the trees without running a conduit. The only accent lighting that could be used would be low level lighting and this is a very attractive nuisance to vandalism. The city would prefer not to have this type of lighting due to the high potential of vandalism. Staff would request leaving the accent lighting out of the bid for now so the project can move forward, with the possibility of adding accent lighting in the future. Staff also confirmed with the engineering department that they are not able to bid the project. Graef is able to do the bidding out of the project, so the project will be moving forward with Graef. There is not a request for additional consulting funds for the bidding because there are funds in the parks general consulting account that will be used to fund the additional fees to Graef for bidding the project. Staff also asked the engineering department if the sidewalk portion of the project could be pulled out and added to the existing engineering sidewalk contract. The city engineer prefers this not to be done because it causes additional work for the department, and it would also be very close to the dollar threshold that the project could be adjusted. The city engineer also suggested that, for a potential better bid, a contingency could be added to the contract that if the project could not be completed in the fall of 2026, the contract could be completed in the spring of 2027. Marty explained that we do not want to wait to bid out the project in the spring of 2027 because there is a 2-year window with the grant, so we need to keep the project moving forward. Regarding the monument. Staff realizes that there is a lot of concern from everyone regarding the monument and left several messages to contractors with no return calls. Finally, the State Historic Preservation Office was contacted, and they provided a couple of contacts that were very helpful. Both are approved contractors with the State Historic Preservation office and both concurred that the monument should stay where it is. If it is moved, there is a strong likelihood that the whole monument will be compromised. They also both agreed that the monument is in incredibly good condition and if we chose to do nothing it would be fine. If we wanted to do something with the monument, they suggested we clean out the landscaping, exposing the base concrete layer, so it can breathe. They also stated that we could clean the cast iron plaque and concrete with dish soap or a non-abrasive cleaner and a non-abrasive cloth. Then the concrete could be sealed, and linseed oil could be put on the plaque itself. However, both agreed that nothing needed to be done because the monument is in really good condition. Neither of the contractors were interested in doing any restoration to the monument because they didn't feel it needed to be done, and the project wasn't big enough for them to bring a crew up to do it. There was also some discussion about painting the lettering on the monument black. Both contractors researched the monument and felt that painting the lettering would not be the best thing to do. From the research done, they believe this plaque was originally all black, and should be left in its current state, which is the way we received it. Staff is looking to have Graef get the project out to bid in the next few weeks and to bring the received bids to the Park Board in August and then to council for approval.

James Kneiszel stated that he is very disappointed that no solution was found for the uplighting. The original concept showed uplighting, and he wants staff to continue to try to find a solution. He stated that the bridge has uplighting that is poured in concrete and questioned if this type of lighting would work. Marty Kosobucki stated that the original lighting proposed was for solar lighting, not wired lighting. The only way to provide this type of lighting is for the lighting to shine up from the ground. Marty explained that staff could continue to look for options, but he wanted to keep the project moving forward. The concept of uplighting is not off the table, but there is nothing currently in the specifications, so the project can move forward. James Kneiszel stated that if the uplighting is not done during the project construction that it is unlikely to happen. Marty Kosobucki disagreed and stated that as long as money is left, then the lighting could be put in. If the park board wants some type of lighting, we can postpone the bidding on

the project, and it can be brought forward at another meeting.

Marty Kosobucki stated that we could move forward with the bidding process and still look for available options. These options could be brought to the September meeting, and if funds are available, a change order could be requested. If funding is not available, city council would have to approve the additional funding. James Kneiszel questioned if staff could research what is used on the bridge and if that would be a suitable option and bring it to the July meeting. Alderperson Chandik Kunding also mentioned that if the bids come in as projected, there would be additional funding available. Marty Kosobucki agreed that if the bids come in as projected, funding could be available.

B. Staff update on donations from WPS and ATC for Arbor Day tree planting.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, provided an update on the tree donation from WPS and ATC, stating with the donation about 5 trees could be planted.

James Kneiszel questioned if ATC was planting any trees at Voyageur Park for the ones that were removed. Marty Kosobucki stated that no trees are required to be planted. All the trees that ATC removed were in their easement, and they are allowed to take them out.

C. Staff Update on Pickleball Courts and Leagues.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, explained that pickleball continues to be very popular. Last year the pickleball league ran into some issues because the courts were busy. These signs now highlight that the courts will be reserved during a certain time frame for our league play, so hopefully the problem will be eliminated.

D. Staff update on non-profit fee waivers.

Marty Kosobucki, Director of Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, stated that he talked to seven different communities and most are consistent with what the city does regarding non-profit fee waivers. For the most part, the other communities do not give a discounted rate on weekends. The park board agreed with keeping our policy as stated.

6. Future Agenda Items

None

7. Adjournment

Randy Soquet moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 pm, seconded by Jeremy Beck. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

RESULT:	Passed (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Randy Soquet
SECONDER:	Jeremy Beck
AYES:	Jeremy Beck, Jim Kneiszel, Randy Soquet, Mike Eserkaln, Amy Kunding, Olivia Alberson

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Lahtela