

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2025 @ 5:30 P.M.

City Hall Council Chambers

1. The 9/3/25 meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Kim Reifsteck.
2. Roll Call: Vi Hornick, Diane Motiff, Kim Reifsteck, Casey Sowle: Excused: Sue Anderson ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent of Public Works Jeremy Wusterbarth, and Past Bird City Coordinator Cordula Van Den Heuvel
3. **Motiff motioned for approval of Agenda; Sowle witnessed second. (4 Ayes)**
4. **Approval of Minutes from 8/6/2025 was called by Motiff with a second of Sowle. (4 Ayes)**
5. Public Input: City Dock's last rack of 18 gourds (same as City Park Martins) and one other rack has been installed by Wusterbarth's crew: that should be the limit for a city our size, says **Van Den Heuvel**: about 220 baby Martins were raised in Oconto this year. She procured a company (with discount) and donations as well as Park and Rec. food at the Fest: all is paid. She also has found a Blue Bird Coordinator whom she will train and will inform the Committee as to who that is when firmed.
6. Correspondence: None.
7. **Discussion/Action/Recommendation on the Following:**
 - a. Updates from Jeremy can be seen below in Parks Update. *He was thanked by the Committee for all improvements he continues to make with his crew.*
 - b. **2026 Seasonal Camping Fees & Rules** are being considered today because Superintendent Wusterbarth is presently working on the 2026 Budget. In his study of the Campground he has determined that only Seasonal rates need to go up: proposal of \$50. He has also determined that within their contract he will add the advantage of placement and storage of camper deck/steps @ \$ 50 for each move. However the crew will not be responsible for breakage. Finally, to the contract will be a statement about the \$100 deposit which holds a site: that deposit will be retained by the City if the seasonal site is used or not. **Sowle motioned that a sum of \$50 be added to Seasonal campers and that \$50 be the contract charge for stair/deck removal and the same cost addition for stair/deck placement as of the 2026 season. Reifsteck called the second to the motion. (4 Ayes)**
 - c. **Approval of asphaltting bids for Holtwood Campground in the amounts of \$59,418.50 & \$28,486.00 to Oconto County Highway Department this fall was placed by Motiff. Hornick supported with a second. (M/C)**
 - d. Here Reifsteck questioned if the Parks, as well as Campground and Harbor will once again be added to the Discovery Guide. This is the aim.
8. Parks Update:

- a. **City Docks** – Diane Motiff + Wusterbarth has been asked by pavilion users if we could enclose it: enclosing all but 1 side (east end open). The Committee felt this move is potential since requested.
 - b. **City Park & Campground** – Casey Sowle Several improvements have been made, especially to the children’s playground: teeter totter upgrade/Commercial Lines Accountant Executive Andy Maduscha, AU (our insurance) sent an official update on WI public playgrounds including the property and responsibility of the City. Staying within those limits, older metal equipment has been refurbished (very kid-friendly, safe and colorful); the monkey bars are ahead. Anderson added the Hop Scotch within the perimeters which have been upgraded with borders and all but one equipment domes (removal-resistant) have been polished. Handicap and other swings, including toddler ones, have been ordered.
 - i. There are still trees to be removed herein and @ the Campground. ALL stumps will be ground-down. Finally, new lighting (LED’s) are being added to the Civic Building: the floor needs attention but can receive the best treatment in the future. Sowle reported that he got a couple of bird signs properly placed. Reifsteck will continue to work on the planters intending to keep them nature (not deer) friendly.
 - ii. Wusterbarth summed up this month’s John Bostedt, jr. Pavilion dedication.
 - c. **Copper Culture** – Violet Hornick + Wusterbarth reports that there have been 11, 095 visitors to the park/museum from 23 different States. He will again be meeting with the DNR on an overgrowth issue (State issue) and for more negotiating on pay for City upkeep of the property.
 - d. **Freedom Park** – All +
 - e. **Holtwood Park** – Sue Anderson +
 - f. **Sharp Park** – Kim Reifsteck Wusterbarth reports this park has also had updating... including the sporting complex and kids outdoor toys (via the Elks), tree removal, trails system checked weekly, and woodchip update.
 - g. **Bond Park** – Diane Motiff + Woodchips necessary have been added.
9. **Approval of Accounts Payable from July 31, 2025 to August 25, 2025 in the amount of: Parks \$12,044.13, Holtwood Campground \$15,614.85 were placed in motion by Sowle with a Motiff second. (M/C)**
10. 3Also discussed were camper refund, and golf cart damage.
11. Revenue & Expenditures Guidelines from 2025 & Revenue and Expenditure Histories were studied by the Committee with comfort assured by Wusterbarth.
12. Next Meeting Date/Time: **Wednesday, October 1 @ 5:30 p.m.**

13. Agenda Items: **Budget 2026 will be sent out ahead of the slated meeting** wherein it will be discussed.
14. Follow-Up List: None.
15. **Motiff summoned adjournment @ 6:34 p.m. Sowle witnessed second. (M/C)**
16. Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl