PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – April 17, 2025

Members Present

X	Jim Wise	X	Kate Hancock - Cooke	X	Gary Lawell (via phone)
X	Peter Kelly	X	Eric Maggio	X	Ted Galloway
X	Lee Hillstrom	X	Ashley Ondresky		Scott Weber

Staff Present

X	Michael T. Kading, Director of Parks & Recreation
X	Jim Kluge, Superintendent of Recreation
X	Trevor Fink, Superintendent of Parks
X	Megan Thompson, Recreation Supervisor

Others Present: Scott Becher, Flo Bruno, Steve Crowley

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY Commissioner Kelly at 4:30 P.M.

Commission Officer Nominations:
After speaking to Commissioners and confirming interest and ability of nominees, Commissioner Lawell nominated Ashley Ondresky as Commission President and Eric Maggio as Commission Vice President for 2025. There were no other nominees.

MSC Lawell/Wise to nominate Ondresky as Commission President and Maggio as Vice President. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Commissioner Lawell thanked Commissioner Kelly for his service to the Commission and City. Commissioner Galloway also thanked Kelly and congratulated the newly elected officers. Newly elected President Ondresky extended her thanks to Kelly for leading the way.

Correspondence
None

Appearances
S. Becher would like to advocate for and support naming the Great Lawn at Memorial Park in honor of Coach Tom Jensen.

Minutes
MSC Hillstrom/Hancock-Cooke to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2025 Commission Meeting. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

Bill Vouchers
Commissioner Kelly reviewed the vouchers for March and found them to be in order.

Financial Report
Director Kading reviewed the First Quarter Financial Report, indicating the expenditures are within 25% of expected spending and revenues are on track with projected 2025 goals.

MSC Hillstrom/Kelly to accept and place on file the First Quarter Financial Report.

Mission Action Report
The report was distributed earlier. The following items were discussed:

- Commissioner Kelly:
  - ✓ Asked if the location for summer tennis lessons will be the middle school. Rec. Supervisor Thompson indicated that this is the plan.
  - ✓ Asked if Junk in the Trunk is a mini flea market. Superintendent Kluge stated it is a community rummage sale. This is the event's second year, and the event has been moved to Washington Park to avoid lake fly season.
  - ✓ Commented on the condition of the Doty Park Shoreline and that this is a project that must be completed. He further reminded Commissioners that this is only Phase 1 of 2, but it does address the most severe conditions.
  - ✓ Inquired about what staff learned from the middle school survey. Staff indicated that the survey did not reveal anything new.
- Commissioner Ondresky thanked park staff for getting the soccer nets up in the parks.
- Commissioner Hancock-Cooke inquired about the recent tree order. Superintendent Fink indicated that 128 trees of various types were received and will be planted throughout the system over the next month.
- Commissioner Ondresky introduced Office Manager Rasmussen. Rasmussen distributed the 2024 Parks & Recreation Department Annual Report.
- Commissioner Hancock-Cooke invited Commissioners to join her for the annual Fox-Wolf Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, May 3rd.

BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

NEW BUSINESS ITEM #1: Approve Additional Batting Cages at Southview Park
Superintendent Fink introduced Steve Crowley, NBI Representative, who gave a brief overview of NBI and requested approval to install 3 new and replace 2 existing batting cages. Fink clarified the location of the proposed new cages.

- C. Lawell asked about growth. Fink indicated that NBI is now using Memorial for practices.
- C. Kelly asked for clarification on the location of the cages.
- C. Maggio inquired about screening. NBI intends to screen the cages.
- C Ondresky asked if the cages would be open to the public when not in use by NBI. Yes.

Action: MSC Galloway/Kelly to approve the placement of 3 new and replacement of 2 batting cages at Southview Park. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

BUSINESS ITEM # 2: Recommendation(s) Douglas Park
Director Kading reviewed the staff's recommendation to maintain ownership and removal of the play equipment and pavilion.

- C. Galloway commented that staff are able to observe use of the park. It seems the new trail may increase use.
- C. Kelly has questions and concerns regarding the removal of the play equipment unless the equipment is past its term of life.
- C. Lawell echoed Kelly's comments.
- Superintendent Fink indicated that the equipment is 25+ years old and obsolete.
- C. Hancock-Cooke stated the pond is massive, brought up potential to make area passive vs active, and recommends cameras.
- The consensus of the Commission is to keep operating as a park, leave the play equipment unless unusable, and remove the pavilion as time permits.
- C. Kelly requested that we establish a date to re-address the situation.

BUSINESS ITEM # 3: Consideration Naming of the Great Lawn at Memorial Park
Commissioner Hillstrom gave a history of Tom Jensen's relation to the Neenah Joint School District and the City of Neenah, including founding and leading the Fun Run event for 29 years. What started out having 44 kids in attendance has led to over 600 kids on average participating in each of the four events throughout the summer. Based upon Tom's long history and impact on the community, Hillstrom requested that the Commission name the Great Lawn at Memorial Park in honor of Tom Jensen.

- C. Lawell commented that he had taught with Tom and that he was a great individual and worthy of such an honor.
- C. Maggio has attended the Fun Runs and found them to create that sense of community that attracts individuals to live in Neenah.
- C. Ondresky felt that Tom was a great asset to the community and deserving of having the Great Lawn named in his honor.

Action: MSC Hillstrom/Galloway to name the Great Lawn at Memorial Park in honor of Tom Jensen. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

BUSINESS ITEM # 4: Reject Green Play Equipment Proposals
Director Kading reviewed items #4 and 5, which are tied together. The $140,000 budgeted for the replacement of play equipment at The Green has been determined to be insufficient after reviewing the two submitted proposals and talking with vendors that did not submit.

Action: MSC Galloway/Wise to reject proposals submitted to provide and install play equipment at The Green. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

BUSINESS ITEM # 5: Authorization to Reallocate Doty Park Play Equipment CIP Funds to The Green Play CIP Equipment Fund
Director Kading requested that the Commission move $60,000 from Doty Park play equipment CIP funding to The Green play equipment fund, raising the available funds from $140,000 to $200,000.

Action: MSC Galloway/Maggio authorized staff to move $60,000 from the Doty Park play equipment CIP funding to The Green play equipment fund. Motion carried by voice vote 8-0.

BUSINESS ITEM # 6: 2025 CIP Update
Reviewed without question.

BUSINESS ITEM # 7: Announcements and Future Agenda Items
Announcement – Abendschein Endowment monies should be transferred to the City shortly.

Doty Park Updates
Doty Park – Proposed Statue Placement

Liaison Reports
Arrowhead Development: No report

Plans Commission: Hancock-Cooke reported they are looking to strategically implement the new housing plan.

Harbor Committee: Galloway reported that the channel buoys are in, lake is low but will be brought to normal levels in time for boating season.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:37 P.M.

Recorded for the Commission by Michael T. Kading, CPRP