

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING – August 20, 2026

Members Present

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

Staff Present

X	Michael T. Kading, Director of Parks & Recreation
X	Kristine Butteris, Superintendent of Recreation
X	Trevor Fink, Superintendent of Parks
X	Megan Thompson, Recreation Supervisor
	Clinton Williams, Parks Supervisor

Others Present: Frank Cuthbert, Gloria Smedema, Becky Heidke-Kwiatkowski, Flo Bruno

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

APPEARANCES

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MSC Hillstrom/Galloway approve the minutes of July 16, 2026, Regular Commission and July 30, 2026, Special Commission Meetings. All voting aye. Motion carried.

BILL VOUCHERS

Commissioner Ondresky reviewed the vouchers for August and found them to be in order.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

No report

MISSION ACTION REPORT

The following items were discussed:

- Commissioner Galloway thanked staff for the tree inventory that was included in the packet.
- Commissioner Ondresky expressed her appreciation for the effort to keep programs and parks running in spite of the tornado damage.
- Director Kading reviewed the known volunteer activities that have been occurring throughout the park system.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

A: Doty Cabin – Accession/Deaccession

Director Kading summarized the list found in the packet.

Action: MSC Galloway/Weber to grant permission to staff to deaccession items as listed per policy. All voting aye. Motion carried.

B: Accept/Recommend Proposed 2027 Operational/Maintenance and CIP Budgets

Director Kading provided an overview of the proposed 2027 budget noting that the budget was held to a 2% increase. Staff wages continue to drive the increase, printing/mailing of the 2027-2028 Fall/Winter Activity Guide was removed from the budget, and Doty Park play area was moved to 2028.

Commissioners expressed desire to include the future cost of replacing “Rocket Play Area” in future CIP planning.

Commissioners questioned no proposed expenditures for Arrowhead. Director Kading noted that the project is pending judicial review and that carryforwards existed for some improvements if desired.

Action: MSC Hillstrom/Galloway to accept and recommend the proposed 2027 Operational/Maintenance and CIP budgets as presented. All voting aye. Motion carried.

C: Renaming of Island Park (Weber)

Commissioner Weber presented a case to consider renaming Island Park to Ellis Park in honor of the long-time Ellis family, who have served the City of Neenah for many years.

Several commissioners spoke on the uncertainty of the park and future use and felt that until this is worked out that renaming should not be considered.

Commissioners directed staff to meet with Community Development to explore future options and report back.

Action: No action taken

D: Carpenter Preserve Task Force (Ondresky)

Agenda item was tabled to the September 17 meeting.

Action: No action taken

E: Accept Neenah Marina Facility Analysis

Director Kading noted that the analysis was included in the Commission packet but recommended that we delay discussion until Commissioners have time to fully read the report.

Action: MSC Hillstrom/Galloway to accept the report as presented and to place on the September 17 meeting for discussion. All voting aye. Motion carried.

F: 2026 CIP Review

Progress report was given.

G: Announcements and Future Agenda Items

Commissioner Hancock – Cooke met with Tracy Hames, Executive Director, Wisconsin Wetlands to review conditions at Wildlife Preserve. Remediation work would be beneficial to the overall health of the wetlands.

Liaison Reports

CORP Task Force: Maggio reported that a brief meeting was held, but given the circumstances, not much work has been accomplished.

Plans Commission: Hancock-Cooke – No report

Harbor Committee: Galloway – No report

Meeting adjourned at 5:17 P.M.

Recorded for the Commission by Michael T. Kading, CPRP