

Minutes
Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting
July 7, 2026

Committee Members Present: Luke Fessler, Nick Trentadue, Tanya Lancaster, Anita Iwanski, Anna Bartz, Lori Wisnicky

Committee Members Absent: Alisa Leamy

Staff Present: Matt Schuenke, Village Administrator; Lee Igl, Public Works Director; Andrew Bremer, Community and Economic Development Director; Shamus O'Reilly, Parks Superintendent; Phil McDade, Utility Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chairman Luke Fessler called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

No public appearances.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2026 Parks and Recreation Committee meeting.

Motion by Fessler, second by Lancaster, to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2026 Sustainability & Natural Resources Committee meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

4. BUSINESS

a. Introduction of the new Parks Superintendent.

Igl introduced Shamus O'Reilly as the village's new Parks Superintendent. He previously served as the Recreation and Community Engagement Director for the village of Poynette in Columbia County.

b. Discussion and action regarding Capital Area Pickleball Association's request for signage at the McFarland pickleball courts.

Richard Russell, 7846 W. Oakbrook Circle, Madison WI, spoke on behalf of the Capital Area Pickleball Association (CAPA) request for signage at the village pickleball courts promoting CAPA activities. The sign would be 8-1/2-by-11 inches, laminated, and placed on the fence near the entrance to the courts. Placing

the signs at the courts would require a formal exemption from village ordinances that prohibit signs being posted in village parks except as authorized by the village Parks and Recreation Committee. Committee members discussed placement of the signs, and whether making an exception for CAPA would lead to more requests for exemptions from the village ordinance to allow signs in parks. Trentadue motioned to approve a signage request from CAPA for posting at the William McFarland Park pickleball courts for the 2026 season. Motion passed 5-1, with Lancaster opposing.

c. Discussion regarding the Cedar Ridge Park playground concept plan.

Committee members discussed several proposals presented by village parks consultant Blake Theisen of Parkitecture. The current playground at Cedar Ridge Park is aging and needs replacement, and the village sponsored a public information meeting to gather opinions on the park's playground needs, use, and location. Residents Kyle and Michaela Moore, 5203 Linden Parkway, and Pat Green, 5209 Leanne Lane, spoke in favor of keeping the current location of the playground – in the southwest corner of the park – for the playground upgrades. Committee members also reviewed two other locations for the playground, and asked Thiesen to come up with cost and playground equipment proposals for two sites at the park – the current location of the playground, and one in the northwest corner of the park.

d. Discussion regarding the Arnold Larson Park concept plan.

Theisen reviewed plans to renovate and provide more amenities at the downtown Arnold Larson Park. Plans presented included: a stage and fire pit in the southwest corner of the park; a permanent restroom building; and improved pedestrian and bike paths through the park.

e. Discussion regarding the Village's 2026 Park Impact Fee Study.

Bremer outlined the village's park impact fee study. The village charges park impact fees to new housing in the village to pay for park and related recreational improvements to serve the growth of the community. The village's 2025-2029 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan included a requirement to update the village's park impact fees. The fees have also been reviewed by the village's Plan Commission. The village has two primary impact fees – a park improvement impact fee, for physical recreational improvements; and a parkland impact fee, which can include land dedicated for parks or fees in lieu of park land. The study recommended increasing the park improvement impact fee, while reducing the parkland impact fee. The Committee discussed the preliminary changes to the proposed park impact fees and felt they were acceptable and did not recommend lowering the Village's parkland level of service goal of 18.5 acres per 1,000 residents as adopted in the Village's 2025-2029 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. Staff will provide the Committee's feedback to the Plan Commission and Village Board as part of completion of the impact fee study.

f. Introduction to and discussion of the proposed McFarland 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Plan

Igl presented the five-year spending plan for capital improvements and purchases for parks and recreation projects in the village. The list included improvements to parks such as Arnold Larson and William McFarland Park as well as Community Park on the far eastern edge of the village.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

- a.** Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Fessler motioned to adjourn; Lancaster seconded. Motion carried by unanimous consent. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.