

VILLAGE OF MCFARLAND

Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes

Tuesday, September 2, 2025 - 6:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL.

Trustee Fessler called the regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Committee to order at 6:30 PM in the community room of the Municipal Center. This meeting was also held via Zoom webinar.

Members present: Trustee Fessler, Trustee Leamy, Anita Iwanski, Sarah Kuba, Tanya Lancaster, Lori Wisnicky

Members not present: Anna Bartz

Staff Present: Public Works Director Lee Igl, Parks Superintendent Sayer Larson, Village Administrator Matt Schuenke, Assistant to the Public Works Director Aimee Irwin

2. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

a. This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Parks and Recreation Committee for items that are not on the agenda. Please remember this is a hybrid meeting conducted in person and through the Zoom online meeting platform. Meeting attendees wishing to address the Committee about items not on the agenda may do so at this time. Zoom attendees should type their name and address in the Question and Answer feature within the Zoom online meeting platform at this time. Members of the public who are present in person and wish to address the Committee should fill out a public comment form and turn into the meeting chairperson. When you are called upon to speak, state your name, address, and provide your comments to the Committee for their consideration. Please adhere to the 3-minute time limit. Additionally, you may send your public comments to public.works@mcfarland.wi.us to be included as part of the meeting.

Members of the public may also speak during their selected agenda item as they designate on the public comment form or in the Question and Answer feature on Zoom.

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

a. Motion to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2025, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.

Motion by Trustee Fessler, seconded by Lancaster, to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2025, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting. Motion carries 6 - 0 - 0.

4. BUSINESS.

a. Update and discussion with the Friends of McFarland Parks

TJ Jerke, a Board member of the Friends of McFarland Parks, provided a presentation regarding the organization, including past initiatives and current projects. Jerke also spoke about the McFarland Aquatics Campaign Committee.

- Lancaster asked what timeline had been established for aquatics. Jerke

responded that details should be available soon on the new McFarland Parks webpage and other elements are in motion. Trustee Fessler commented that there are various elements at play that would need to occur, such as soccer moving to Community Park and updates to William McFarland park to then allow for space for a possible aquatics feature.

- Trustee Fessler asked if there were things impeding the process for aquatics by the Village. Jerke responded that nothing is impeding the process, but additional discussions should occur with Village staff.

b. Discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding Prairie Place park

Igl provided an overview of the Prairie Place park project to date, including the various locations. Igl stated that staff have moved away from the previously proposed two locations with a new location near Lift Station 5 being proposed. Blake Thiesen of Parkitecture reviewed the third location option and three possible playground sets for the area.

- Iwanski asked what impact the sledding hill had on proposed site locations. Thiesen explained that option one impacted the sledding hill.
- Iwanski asked about gaining public input on the new option three location. Trustee Fessler stated a PIM could be hosted, but the option three location stemmed from the previous PIM. Fessler added that additional input could be gathered prior to the item being on the Village Board agenda.
- Trustee Leamy inquired about adding unique structures similar to Discovery Park. Thiesen explained that due to the small footprint, there are limitations on what type of structure could be selected.
- Trustee Fessler asked what the gray box and yellow box were on the graphic. Thiesen explained that the gray box is a concrete pad to allow for bike parking and the yellow box is intended for a picnic table.
- Trustee Fessler asked what the edging would be made of. Thiesen stated the edging is shown as a concrete ribbon curb but stated plastic timbers could be an option.
- Iwanski asked if the edging was within the gas line easement. Thiesen stated that yes, the edging is within the easement.
- Kuba inquired if there were any shade options available. Thiesen explained that due to space there would be limited options, but he would look into this more.
- Trustee Fessler asked about access to the park. Thiesen stated that access could be gained at Shooting Star Ct.
- Committee members discussed the three playground options and additional suggestions for the park. Committee members suggested the business item returning to the committee for further review at an upcoming meeting.

Motion by Trustee Fessler, seconded by Trustee Leamy, to table discussion and action to make a recommendation to the Village Board regarding Prairie Place park. Motion carries 6 - 0 - 0.

c. Discussion and action regarding sponsor signage for a soccer tournament as requested

by McFarland Soccer Club.

Katie Cappozzo, President of the McFarland Soccer Club, presented their proposed signage for their fall tournament sponsor.

Motion by Trustee Fessler, seconded by Wisnicky, to approve a request for signage by McFarland Soccer Club for the September 12, 2025, to September 14, 2025, soccer tournament. Motion carries 6 - 0 - 0.

d. Discussion regarding use agreements of Community Park.

Schuenke provided an overview regarding the enclosed agreements for the McFarland Soccer Club and McFarland School District.

- Iwanski asked if the village currently collects funds from McFarland Soccer Club. Schuenke responded that yes, funds are being collected.
- Iwanski asked about the time-lapse issue associated with section 4.3a of the soccer agreement. Schuenke explained that the village would keep the asset, the shelter, and pay off the remaining loan for soccer.
- Iwanski asked if the agreements were being put in place due to the budget shortfall for the project. Schuenke stated the agreements are not due to the budget shortfall.
- Iwanski asked if signage could be part of the agreement for soccer. Fessler responded that an adjustment to the ordinance language would be required. Schuenke added that this would be a matter of policy change and could be updated through ordinance rather than an agreement.
- Lancaster if other areas currently have multiple agreements in place and, if possible, conflicts would occur. Schuenke stated that multiple agreements do not exist for a single location. Igl responded that schedules will need to be provided by both groups to avoid conflicts.
- Trustee Fessler asked for clarification regarding section 2.9 of the agreement. Schuenke explained that this section is mostly to allow soccer field use.
- Trustee Fessler suggested that the five-year check-in be added to the school district agreement.

5. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING DATE.

a. Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion with committee members and staff occurred regarding the need to adjust the October 22nd meeting. The committee members and staff agreed to adjust the meeting date from October 22nd to October 23rd beginning at 6:30 PM.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Motion by Trustee Leamy, seconded by Wisnicky, to adjourn at 8:20 PM.

Pursuant to law, written notice of this meeting was given to the public and posted on the public bulletin board in accordance with Open Meetings Law.

Respectfully submitted,
Aimee Irwin

Assistant to the Public Works Director