

November 4, 2025 Park Board Report

Attending: President, Mike Ropp, Andrew Medford, Scott Dreamer (zoom), Linda Powell. Rosemary McDaniel, Secretary, Staff Present: Mike Yoder, Jill. Swartz. Visitors: Cathy Antonelli

Approval of minutes. Minutes were tabled until next month for Mike Ropp to review them.

Visitor Presentation: Cathy Antonelli presented Landscaping Proposals for Hermance and Congdon Parks. She proposed planting around Hermance Pavilion to add color and visual interest. She recommended using a combination of river rock and rubber mulch for durability and lower maintenance.

For Congdon Park: she suggested landscaping around the deck and steps area of perennials and rocks and mulch. She suggested creeping Phlox or sedum in areas to prevent erosion. Her timing for these projects would be Spring of 2026. Funding would be coming from existing ground improvements line item. More planning will be done in the coming months.

Staff report: Jill handed out a flyer for the Bristol Annual Tree Lighting 2025 on Friday, December 5, 2025 at the Bristol Fire Department. At 6pm activities will be cookies and hot cocoa and Letters to Santa, and chatting with neighbors. The Park Board has approved a budget of \$400, but Jill anticipates it will be less. Jill is looking to find possible choirs to come and sing Christmas songs. At 6:30 pm Santa will arrive and the tree will be lit. After lighting, everyone is welcome to return to Fire Station for fellowship and refreshments, photos with Santa and letters to Santa. This event is sponsored by Bristol Fire Department and Bristol Park Department.

Season Summary of Community Garden:: Mike Ropp reported that they delivered 650-700 lbs of produce to the Community Pantry with final delivery scheduled for November 5, 2025. Goal for 2026 would be to have earlier planting to extend the harvest season.

2026 Planning: Seed to Feed Church Community services funding is uncertain, he is expending an update within 1-2 months. We will need increased donations and community support for plants, mulch, and soil. Donations of live plants will be needed for next spring. Plant list will be finalized by January 2026. Many volunteers will be needed. Water service expense has been included in the Park Board budget for 2026.

The community garden provides seasonal Library classes conducted by Mary Ann Martin and Mike Ropp. There will be 3 to 4 classes at the Library.

Congdon Park: Jill proposed self-guiding walk/run event on Thanksgiving Day, called "A Thanksgiving Turkey Trot." This event will be held in both Cummins and Congdon Parks. Families can participate at their convenience. 4 laps around the walking path at Congdon Park and 5 Laps around the path at Cummins Park constitutes one mile. It was moved by Andrew and seconded by Linda to purchase two small signs (24" x 18": \$28.98 each and two large signs (40" x 30") \$132.50 each. Flyers will be delivered to Library and other locations.

Tree replacement update: Dead and damaged trees have been removed from Congdon Park. Eric has been in contact with Turkey Creek Nursery regarding new tree planting. Planting schedule has not yet been confirmed.

Basketball Court update: Contractor experienced staffing delays and the concrete work is now scheduled for Thursday and Friday, Nov. 6 & 7, 2025. Painting will be postponed until Spring 2026.

Pickleball Court Maintenance: Cracks are appearing in our Courts. Eric is working to find the proper material and method to fill these cracks. He is working with Mark George to be sure we do this correctly.

Trunk or Treat Report: Jill said there was an excellent turnout despite the light rain. There were Approximately 650 to 658 kids in attendance. The bridge closure created a safer waking route for families. Some new businesses joined , but we still have room for more big trucks. All participating trucks and vehicles were decked out for Halloween. The Park was nicely decorated for the season. The large inflatable Black Cat was a popular photo opportunity. 2026 scheduled Truck and Treat will be held on Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026. Same time, same place. Goal is to recruit more participating businesses/ trucks.

Cummins Park Trash Service Update. Mike & Jill are working with the Museum to have the Museum eliminate their service of two dumpsters and use the Park's dumpster. The Park Department will then have this dumpster emptied once a week. This will help eliminate odor and reduce the dumpsters needed from three to one. The actual location of the dumpster will be decided later after the trash company has been consulted on the best location. If all parties are in agreement, the new trash service will start on January 1, 2026.

Rest room update: There is a community grant opportunity: \$120,000 to \$150,000 potential Funding for restroom facility. Application has submitted and waiting for a decision.

Scraper Mat rental proposal for the Pickleball Court entrances. The existing mats at the Pickleball entrances are deteriorating. Jill was done research, and has come up with a mat proposal from Wildman services. We need to purchase or rent 6 mats, one per court entrance. The Wildman proposal is \$5.31 per mat per month. Mats will be removed from Nov. through March. They will replace all mats that become damaged. Jill will report at next meeting how much it would cost for mats with our logo on them.

Budget discussion: There was brief discussion on the cost of our Sanitary Services. This year's budget is \$5,000 and we are currently at \$8,000 with 2 months to go. Mike said he was aware of this expense and had already revised our 2026 budget to \$7,500. We have found that Cripe Services is an excellent company to be using.

Jill said that this week we received \$7,700 from an endowment fund . Provided by a local Bristol resident, and these funds were deposited to our Park Donation fund. This will be an annual donation. Jill has mailed a letter of thanks.

Andrew's 4-year term ends Dec.31, 2025. Due to family commitments. Andrew has declined Reappointment. The Board expressed appreciation for his 2 years of service. Andrew identified a candidate who is interested I becoming a Board member. Staff will advertise an opening on social media. Letters of intent will be due by Friday Nov. 28, 2025. Letters to be submitted to the town hall. Park Board will review letters at Park Board meeting on Dec 2, 2025, and the Town Council will make the appointment in December of 2025.

Next meeting December 2, 2025 at 6pm at the Town Hall. Motion to adjoin by Mike, and seconded by Andrew. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm. Visitors Welcome.

