



REPORT TO PARKS COMMITTEE

ITEM NAME:	Creating a "Friends of the Kronenwetter Parks" Support Group
MEETING DATE:	August 17, 2026
PRESENTING COMMITTEE:	Parks Committee
COMMITTEE CONTACT:	Trustee Aaron Myszka
STAFF CONTACT:	Jennifer Poyer
PREPARED BY:	Jennifer Poyer

ISSUE: The Parks Committee voted to move forward with a "Friends of the Kronenwetter Parks" Support Group during the August 3, 2026 meeting. The members were tasked with finding members to join the group.

OBJECTIVES:

- Create a dedicated volunteer and fundraising organization to support park improvements beyond what the parks budget can cover in a given year.
- Enable the group to legally conduct raffles in Wisconsin as a fundraising tool, which requires organizing as an eligible nonprofit and obtaining a state raffle license.
- Establish an ongoing volunteer presence that helps identify maintenance needs, safety concerns, and improvement opportunities in the parks throughout the year.

ISSUE BACKGROUND/PREVIOUS ACTIONS:

Many Wisconsin municipalities have an independent "Friends of the Parks" or similar nonprofit support group that works alongside, but separately from, the municipal parks department. These groups typically organize as Wisconsin nonstock nonprofit corporations under Wis. Stat. Ch. 181 and often pursue federal 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, which allows them to accept tax-deductible donations and apply for grants that are only open to nonprofit applicants.

Raffle Licensing Requirements

Under Wis. Stat. Ch. 563 and related administrative rules, raffles are a regulated form of gambling in Wisconsin, and a license from the Wisconsin Department of Administration's Office of Charitable Gaming is required before any raffle may be conducted. To qualify for a license, an organization generally must be a local religious, charitable, service, fraternal, or veterans organization (or another organization to which contributions are tax-deductible) that has been in existence for at least one year immediately before applying, or that is chartered by a state or national organization that has itself been in existence for at least three years. License fees are modest (in the range of \$25 per license class), each license is valid for one year, and the state's review process typically takes four to six weeks. This one-year existence requirement is an important timing factor to be considered.

PROPOSAL:

ADVANTAGES:

DISADVANTAGES/CONSIDERATIONS:

ITEMIZE ALL ANTICIPATED COSTS (Direct or Indirect, Start-Up/One-Time, Capital, Ongoing & Annual, Debt Service, etc.):

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

TIMING REQUIREMENTS/CONSTRAINTS:

**FUNDING SOURCE(s) – Must include Account Number/Description/Budgeted Amt CFY/% Used
CFY/\$ Remaining CFY**

Account Number:

Description:

Budgeted Amount:

Spent to Date:

Percentage Used:

Remaining:

ATTACHMENTS (describe briefly):