



PARKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

September 08, 2025 at 4:45 PM

116 E State St, Mauston, WI

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call:** The Board of Parks Commissioners met outdoors on Monday, September 8, 2025, at the new State Street Lounge, 116 E State Street. Chair Mike Taake called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Members present were Mike Taake, Laura Taake, Dan Holzberger, Todd Galbrecht, and Maryann Allaby. Parks Superintendent Jordan Wilke was also present.
2. **Minutes:** Motion by Holzberger, seconded by Galbrecht, to approve the minutes from August 4, 2025. Motion carried by voice vote.
3. **Financial Reports:** The financial reports were reviewed. No concerns or questions were generated.
4. **Staff Report:** Holzberger brought to attention a supply of black dirt in relation to the Big Dig Grant; this item was tabled until further information is available.
 - a. **Seasonal Changes:** Wilke and crew are working on seasonal changes, including closing the splash pad as time and weather permit. With mowing slowing down, they will shift focus to tree trimming, tree removal, and treating Emerald Ash Borer. Wilke and Beth Babcock of the Mauston School District will collaborate this fall on a tree education program with MHS students. Wilke also discussed MSA's work in researching plans and grants to improve Lions Park, potentially including upgrades to parking and restrooms.
 - b. **Jones Park Update:** Improvements are progressing well with favorable weather and growing conditions. The gravel parking lot on the south end needs improvement and could be added to a future street project. Grass has been mowed for the first time, fencing has been installed, and two sets of bleachers are being relocated to provide premium spectator viewing. The existing light posts are under consideration for future needs, and a possible storage unit may also be installed. Youth soccer and football leagues will be informed about using this new greenspace beginning in late 2026 and beyond. L. Taake addressed the need for accessible/unisex restroom signage at Lions Park to prevent confusion and mishaps. The Board discussed ways to encourage the community to once again use Veterans Park and its ball diamonds for adult softball leagues, noting it is an excellent but underutilized facility. Holzberger reminded the Board of the planned "4th of July 2026" youth baseball tournament and expressed hopes of bringing youth practices and games back to the Veterans Park ball diamond.

On behalf of the Mauston Picklers, L. Taake thanked the City for painting additional pickle ball court lines. The Board also inquired about the electric company's fenced-in area near the dam; discussion was tabled until more information is available about the future of this greenspace.

Finally, Galbrecht will continue photographing the City's parks and capturing residents enjoying the facilities and amenities offered.

5. Next Agenda – Not discussed

6. Adjourn: Motion by Galbrecht, seconded by Holzberger, to adjourn. Motion carried by voice vote.
Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Chair

Date