



TWO RIVERS

WISCONSIN

ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Koska Room - Community House
1520 17th Street, Two Rivers, WI 54241

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL:

PRESENT: Council Rep Adam Wachowski, Council Rep Scott Stechmesser, Erin Lamal, Jason Scharping, Daniel Cortte, Tom Lawler ABSENT: Robert Reed, Travis Kadow, Jennifer Watry

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Jason Scharping, Seconded by Erin Lamal.

3. CORRESPONDENCE - None

4. COMMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC (Limited to 3 minutes each) - None

5. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Review ordinance allowing P&R to sell fermented malt beverages within city facilities and parks – Motion made in support of City Council adopting the ordinance made by Jason Scharping, Seconded by Tom Lawler. Motion carried by voice vote. Voting: All yea.

B. Mariners Trail fence replacement project – Motion made in support of project and securing grant funding without taxpayer contribution made by Erin Lamal, Seconded by Jason Scharping. Motion carried by voice vote. Voting: All yea.

C. Two Rivers Community Band changes in P&R role and City funding - A meeting with Community Band members is scheduled for February 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the Koska Room to discuss changes and future vision. The Band Director is exploring the creation of a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization for the band. City staff are also researching grant opportunities and donations to establish an investment fund through the Lakeshore Community Foundation.

The Community Band, which began over 100 years ago as the Hamilton employee band, has recently operated with city employees serving as paid performers. For 2026, City funding has been reduced from \$8,700 to \$3,000. A full concert schedule is still planned for 2026, including the band's traditional performances.

D. Central Park East native planting project - Due to budget cuts, staff are exploring the replacement of annual flowers with perennial native plantings. The change would provide cost savings and environmental benefits. The project will be volunteer-driven.

E. Senior Center Patio - Staff are exploring the development of raised garden beds on the Senior Center patio to create a more engaging use of the space. Donations and volunteers are being sought to help implement the project.

F. Neshotah Beach Kites Over Lake Michigan Sculpture - The Kites Over Lake Michigan volunteer committee is partnering with Shoreline Credit Union & Fox Communities Credit Union to design and install a sculpture at Neshotah Beach. City staff are exploring the creation of a City committee to provide feedback on the project.

G. Tree Nursery Gravel Bed Project (High School Partnership) - Staff plan to pilot a gravel bed tree nursery in partnership with the high school. Currently, 2-inch diameter trees are purchased for parks and cemeteries due to their high survival rate, at a cost of \$200–\$250 per tree. Smaller bare root trees are significantly less expensive (\$5–\$20 each) but have lower survival rates and require additional care. The high school shop class will volunteer to construct a gravel bed this spring to improve survival rates, reduce costs, and support increased tree plantings.

H. Update on Cemetery Perpetual Flower Program - Staff provided an update on efforts to identify sustainable and impactful alternatives for the cemetery's perpetual flower program, including native and perennial plant options. Staff met with the Lakeshore Community Foundation on February 11, 2026, to explore donations and grants to establish an investment fund. Additional efforts include exploring volunteer-led experimentation with perennial native plants, meeting with the Arboretum and Nature Center to discuss a potential native plant nursery partnership, and investigating the purchase of a greenhouse to support tree and plant propagation.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Senior Center Library Updates - Staff shared plans to enhance the Senior Center Library as a digital café, game space, and reading nook. A \$5,000 donation has been received to support the improvements. In addition, a \$15,000 grant application was submitted to AARP to upgrade Wi-Fi and technology throughout the Community House, with an emphasis on serving seniors.

Paddlers Park Improvement Updates - The grant agreement has been signed for Paddlers Park improvements. The project includes a new boat launch, updated signage, and pathway enhancements. Funding will be shared 50/50 between 2025 City capital funds and a Wisconsin Coastal Management grant.

Riverside Park Improvement Updates - Parkitecture is developing engineering plans for bidding, and a land survey will be completed in February. Phase 1 construction is planned to begin in late summer or fall. Community engagement for the skatepark will begin soon, including school visits to gather youth feedback. Fundraising for Phase 2 of the skatepark is expected to start this summer.

Neshotah Beach Improvement Updates - City Council will vote on capital borrowing for the project on 2/26/26. If approved, P&R will take the project to bid to obtain firm cost estimates. Community feedback survey results will be compiled and shared in late March. The City Council will review final estimates and community feedback on 4/7/26 to decide whether the project will proceed.

Program & Event Updates - Arbor Day, Zombie Zoom, Softball & Baseball, Flag Football, Yoga, Golf Lessons. Golf Simulator Rentals are doing very well with 55 rentals in January.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS - None

8. NEXT MEETING - March 11, 2026

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Dan Cortte, Seconded by Jason Scharping.

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Hooper - Parks & Recreation Office Manager

