



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 09, 2024 at 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

1. ROLL CALL

Board Members: Daniel Cortte, Brian Gallagher, Travis Kadow, Erin Lamal, Robert Reed Jr., Jason Scharping, Dorothy Tinkham Delo, Adam Wachowski-Council Rep, Scott Stechmesser-Council Rep

PRESENT

Council Rep Adam Wachowski
Council Rep Scott Stechmesser
Jason Scharping
Travis Kadow
Daniel Cortte
Dorothy Tinkham Delo

ABSENT

Robert Reed
Erin Lamal
Brian Gallagher

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Jason Scharping, Seconded by Travis Kadow.

3. CORRESPONDENCE

None

4. COMMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC (Limited to 3 minutes each)

Two Residents that live near Neshotah beach on Garfield Street stated their concerns with the New Pathway that is set to start from Garfield Street and cut across with a multi-purpose path to give visitors a path from parking areas to beach/park/concession stand. Their concerns were with the starting point of the path as well as bikers/e-bikes using the path.

Two Residents stated there is an issue with the Jet Ski launch area at Neshotah Beach. Concerns with safety and congestion in that area. Suggested improved signage and rubber beach mat for vehicles to improve access.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. Food Trucks at Beach

The Board engaged in a discussion and agreed that the Two Rivers Parks & Recreation Department should develop a comprehensive plan to present to the ARB for approval. During the conversation, there was an exchange of ideas on topics such as fee structures, designated parking areas, permits, and potential parking locations at the beach.

B. Jet Ski Launching at Beach

The Board discussed the challenges at the Jet Ski Launch at Neshotah Beach and explored potential solutions. Low-cost options included improved signage and painting the parking lot. Higher-cost alternatives were also considered, such as installing a rubber mat—an estimate for which will be obtained—and the potential use of buoys, which would require further research. Additionally, the possibility of introducing a "Jet Ski Fee," similar to the one at Vet's Park boat launch, was discussed as a means to help offset costs.

6. OLD BUSINESS

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Golf simulator tour for ARB

Board members toured the new Truegolf Apogee Golf Simulator and Multi-Sport Simulator located in the old racquetball court of the Community House.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

A. Program & Event Updates

Events

The Paddle Palooza event saw a great turnout of approximately 100 participants. The morning launch featured 50 kayakers, while the Sunset Paddle had 18 kayaks. Ten educational vendors were on hand, and children had the opportunity to try fishing for free. It was a highly successful first event, and we look forward to making it an annual tradition that encourages more people to enjoy and explore our rivers.

Next upcoming big event is our 2nd annual Cool City Christmas on December 14. Many activities including Santa & his reindeer, ice skating, face painting, craft & vendor fair, holiday craft making, candy cane hunt, s'mores & warming fire, digital photo booth, carolers, TRPD K9 unit, food trucks, and much more. New this year we will also be having a Christmas Tree decorating contest with 30 live trees donated from Sprang for Central Park East before the parade.

2024 Ice Skate Rental schedule released with 2 dates in November, all of December, and future dates to be determined.

"Gone Fishing" on August 10 was a free event with 125 kids registered for fishing, food, & awards. Thank you to Julie Schroeder for making this event a success.

We wrapped up the outdoor concert season, hosted the Slugfest softball tournament, and 25 vendors participated in the Farmers Market.

Programs

Flag football had record year with over 120 kids participating ages K-4th grade, youth soccer has 29 kids participating, and men's horseshoes league completed its 44th year with 14 teams, a new volleyball clinic, and yoga classes are becoming more and more popular with instructor Cathy Hendricks.

The upcoming programs for fall/winter are youth basketball, youth wrestling, co-ed volleyball, indoor soccer, swimming lessons, yoga, open gym dates scheduled for winter breaks, trick or treat, & softball clinics. Lots going on this fall/winter!

B. Parks & Facility Updates

Senior Center

The Senior Center will be hosting a Health & Information Fair on October 17 in the Community House gym, followed by a free Thanksgiving Community Dinner on November 25. Both events are highly anticipated and attract strong participation from the public and volunteers. Additionally, Friends of the Senior Center are sponsoring free rides to and from polling places for the November 5 election.

Parks

Zander Park – A new water line has been installed to provide fresh water to the dog park area.

Picnic Hill – The disc golf course is being updated with park enhancements, including tree and trail clean-up, new signage, and the installation of new concrete tee pads. We plan to pour the concrete in November.

Paddlers Park – Thanks to support from the Lakeshore Natural Resources Partnership, we now have a comprehensive plan (outlined in the attached presentation) that includes the planting of 9 larger trees and native vegetation this fall. LNRP and Two Rivers Parks & Recreation will also be pursuing future funding for additional improvements.

Vietnam Park – New scoreboards have been installed.

C. Planning & Grants Updates

Planning

Mike Mathis provided important clarifications regarding the upcoming updates to Neshotah Park following the recent City Council meeting. For more detailed information, please refer to the attached presentation.

The Two Rivers Parks & Recreation Department is conducting a comprehensive audit of roles and responsibilities to update job descriptions, many of which have not been revised in years. We will also continue our leadership and goal-setting meetings to drive progress and ensure continuous improvement.

Grants

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities application has been submitted. The assistance program helps communities grow their outdoor recreation economy and revitalize their main streets.

2025 WI DNR Urban Forestry application has been submitted. This is a matching grant that would include school outreach, education, planting, dead tree removals, and a youth apprentice & seasonal labor support.

2025 Coastal Management application is currently in progress. This grant will be for Riverside Park riverfront improvements, pathways, restroom, and removal of impermeable surfaces.

2018 "New Beach" Grant - This was an old grant that was never finished. Mike Mathis is working on finishing this up installing a new picnic/shade shelter, trail signage, and picnic and grills in the New Beach green space.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS

10. NEXT MEETING

November 13, 2024 at 6pm

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Travis Kadow, Seconded by Daniel Cortte.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Laura Hooper". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Laura Hooper

Parks & Recreation Office Manager