ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

1. PRESENT: Council Rep Scott Stechmesser, Council Rep Doug Brandt, Daniel Cortte, Chris Eggert-Rosenthal, Travis Kadow, Erin Lamal, Tom Lawler, Jennifer Watry ABSENT: Jason Scharping

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
Motion made by Jennifer Watry, Seconded by Chris Eggert-Rosenthal.

3. **CORRESPONDENCE** - None

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

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Action Item – Neshotah Beach Concession Stand

Following discussion of the five renovation options, a motion was made to proceed with Option 1, at a minimum, with the addition of changing room partitions to bring the concession stand up to code. The ultimate goal is to complete Option 4. All options outlined on attached presentation.

Motion: Travis Kadow moved to proceed as outlined above. The motion was seconded by Chris Eggert-Rosenthal. Motion carried by voice vote.

Voting: Yea – Daniel Cortte, Chris Eggert-Rosenthal, Travis Kadow, Erin Lamal, Tom Lawler, Jennifer Watry, Scott Stechmesser; Nay – Doug Brandt.

B. Riverside Park Project Update

Parks & Recreation has completed Phase 1 demolition and will be adding topsoil and grass seed. Competitive bidding is planned for December, with Phase 1 construction scheduled for spring 2027.

For Phase 2, a $177,500 DNR grant has been secured for the skatepark. City funding and West Foundation funding are still pending. Community feedback on the bike and skatepark is planned for 2027, with the Phase 2 construction timeline to be determined.

C. Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Next Steps

The draft action plan was developed following the September 1–2 workshop, which was attended by approximately 70 people. The plan outlines five goals and identifies connections and action steps to help move each goal forward. The full plan can be viewed on the attached presentation.

An adopted Master Plan can be beneficial when applying for grant funding, as demonstrated by projects such as the Neshotah Beach and Riverside Park Master Plans.

The five goals are: Connect People to Destinations, Expand Recreation and Community Participation, Grow the Outdoor Recreation Economy, Create a Vibrant and Resilient Downtown Waterfront, Build a Sustainable and Resilient Community.

D. 2027 P&R Goals

The Board reviewed the Parks & Recreation Department's 12 goals for 2027. Additional details on each goal are available in the attached presentation.

E. 2027 Concert Schedule

The draft 2027 concert schedule was reviewed. The department plans to continue Thursday Concerts in the Park, Friday Downtown Friday Night Live, and Bands on the Beach. The overall number of concerts is expected to decrease by approximately seven.

F. 2027 Expanding Kayaking Efforts with Grant Support

Two Rivers received a $7,500 paddling grant from the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable to expand its outdoor wellness paddling initiative. The program will increase access to paddling opportunities for veterans, older adults, people with disabilities, and residents facing barriers to recreation.

Grant funding will support free beginner kayaking classes, free guided paddling outings, adaptive paddling training, and equipment and instructor training.

G. Invitation to board and community to participate in the Youth Sports Summit on Nov. 4. Register at https://forms.gle/rcfaauTL3vmcw6om8

6. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

7. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

a. Program and Event Updates

Recreation Program Updates: Flag Football: NFL programs have 67 total players; girls' programs have 39. Horseshoes: 16 teams completed the season. Baseball/Softball Sponsorships: Current sponsors are Port Sandy Bay and Cool City Chevrolet. Jersey sponsorships could save $3,000. Fall Soccer: 49 players across 4K–4th grade programs, including the successful new 3v3 program. Dance Programs: Kids Cardio Dance and Line Dancing are offered on select Friday nights through December.

Senior Center Updates: Activity numbers included 1,306 Hello I Am Here visits, 513 fitness, 369 recreational programming, 252 TRUST, and 1,498 HDM. September highlights included the community garden, Aging Advocacy Days, a quilting donation to Pink Heals, and volunteer appreciation. Murder Mystery tickets went on sale September 1, and cornhole begins in October.

Event Updates: Upcoming events include Youth Sports Summit, Zombie Zoom, TR Senior Center Murder Mystery Dinner & Community Thanksgiving Meal, Downtown Christmas Tree Decorating Contest, Parade, & Cool City Christmas.

b. Parks and Facilities Project Updates

Park winterization is underway, and Riverside Park demolition is complete. Community House and Golf Simulator rentals are increasing as temperatures drop. A sign sponsorship program has launched at the Veterans Park Fish Cleaning Station. A perennial garden demonstration was installed in front of the cemetery building, and the proposed 2027 budget includes full funding for traditional geraniums.

c. Planning and Grants Updates - none

9. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS -** Review the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities Action Plan

10. **NEXT MEETING** – November 11th, 2026

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made by Travis Kadow, Seconded by Tom Lawler.

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Hooper, Parks & Recreation Office Manager