



**TWO
RIVERS**
WISCONSIN

ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:00 PM

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

MINUTES

1. **ROLL CALL:**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion made by Dan Cortte, Seconded by Jennifer Watry

3. **CORRESPONDENCE** - None

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

Marilee Hirvela expressed concerns regarding Item 5d (Cemetery Flowers). She indicated her understanding that arrangements for this year, including the use of geraniums, had already been finalized. While she is not opposed to the use of perennials, she noted potential maintenance challenges, including the need for seasonal cutback and the risk of deer damage.

Dean Hirvela requested that the cemetery restrooms be open and that John Tuesburg be present on May 23, 2026, in conjunction with the American Legion flag placement scheduled for the Saturday prior to Memorial Day.

Kathy Dahlke also expressed concerns regarding Item 5d (Cemetery Flowers). She recommended implementing a pilot program to evaluate the use of perennials before making any permanent changes to the ordinance. She further suggested that additional data and feedback be gathered and presented to the ARB Board prior to taking formal action.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. 2026 Great Neshotah Beach Campout – Action recommended in support of City Council waiving ordinance(s) to allow the campout to take place.

Action Item – Neshotah Beach Campout: Following discussion, the 2026 campout will remain the same size, continue to be family-focused, and prohibit alcohol. Registration fees will increase, with all proceeds allocated to Parks & Recreation. Motion made by Dan Cortte, seconded by Travis Kadow. Motion carried by voice vote. **Voting:** All aye.

b. 2026/27 DNR Non-Point Source & Storm Water Grant – Action recommended in support of City Council passing a resolution in support of applying for the grant.

Action Item – 2026/27 DNR Non-Point Source & Storm Water Grant: Following discussion, a motion was made by Erin Lamal, seconded by Travis Kadow, to support applying for the grant for

Mariners Trail storm water management solutions. Motion carried by voice vote.
Voting: Yea – Cortte, Kadow, Lamal, Reed, Watry, Stechmesser. Nay – Lawler.

c. 2026/27 DNR Stewardship Grant – Action recommended in support of City Council passing a resolution in support of applying for the grant.

Action Item – 2026/27 DNR Stewardship Grant: Following discussion, a motion was made by Jennifer Watry, seconded by Erin Lamal, to support applying for the grant for Phase 2 of the Riverside Park Improvements project. Motion carried by voice vote. **Voting:** All aye.

d. Cemetery Flower Planting Ordinance Change – Action recommended in support of City Council changing the city ordinance to allow city staff to plant perennial flowers in place of annual flowers for the perpetual care program.

Action Item – Cemetery Flower Ordinance Change: Clarification was provided regarding public comment. All geraniums have been ordered and will be planted this year as in previous years. Additional work is needed to establish a fund for future flower plantings. Following discussion regarding the ordinance and flower options, a motion was made to table the item pending further clarification. Motion made by Dan Cortte, seconded by Tom Lawler. Motion carried by voice vote. **Voting:** All aye.

e. Neshotah Park and Beach Signage Project

Update: Staff anticipates a significant reduction in regulatory signage while still meeting required standards and effectively informing visitors. The project is expected to go out for bid prior to installation, with signage likely to be installed in September. The ARB recommended incorporating solar caps on top of the signs for lighting, as well as including additional signage for future replacement needs.

f. Review of Neshotah Beach Concession Stand Survey Results

Update: A total of 786 responses were received, with 66% supporting a comprehensive renovation, 26% favoring a minimal approach, and 8% indicating no preference. While non-scientific, the survey provides a strong indication of community sentiment. An additional \$50,000 grant has been submitted, potentially reducing the City's share to approximately \$105,000. A working group met to review results and plan community communication.

Next Steps: Await grant confirmations, receive bid results (due April 17, 2026), prepare estimated annual operating costs, and present all information to City Council for a final decision.

6. **OLD BUSINESS** - None

7. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**

a. Program and Event Updates

Program Updates: The dance program concluded with a successful recital attended by over 200 community members, showcasing 80 participants. Registration is now open for a variety of spring and summer programs, including track, swim lessons, baseball, softball, flag football, soccer, as well as new offerings such as Forest Bathing and Kids in Motion. Full program details are available in the new summer activity guide.

Senior Center Updates: March activity showed strong participation across all areas, even with multiple weather-related closures. Total check-ins reached 1,408. Fitness programs totaled 588 participants, including 111 in cardio drumming and 282 in senior yoga. The golf simulator had 12 participants, with additional weekly time slots added. Congregate lunches served 151 participants, recreation programming (games, bingo, etc.) totaled 323, TRUST programming reached 268, and 1,355 home-delivered meals were provided. Overall, participation increased in all categories compared to prior periods.

Special Event Updates: Seehafer Broadcasting provided a \$20,000 in-kind sponsorship for Bands on the Beach, including approximately 800 radio ads in celebration of WOMT's 100th anniversary. Fox Communities Credit Union contributed \$1,500 as a major sponsor for Cool City Christmas. The Easter Bunny Breakfast was highly successful, drawing nearly 300 participants and generating over \$3,300 in profit. Additionally, Heart-A-Rama will begin use of the Two Rivers Community House this week for their upcoming event. Upcoming events include: 4/18 Beach Cleanup, 4/25 Arbor Day Tree Planting & Earth Day Parks Clean Up as well as Summer Concerts.

b. Parks and Facilities Updates

Staffing Updates: All maintenance staff are now based at the Cemetery, with no new positions added. Responsibilities and work locations have been adjusted to better align staffing with operational needs. These changes are expected to result in approximately \$14,000 in savings in 2026, provide flexibility for potential budget challenges in 2027, and improve support for Community House operations. The restructuring also shifts staff capacity toward higher-need areas, including park trash collection, restroom closing, and Community House cleaning, particularly during second shift hours.

Paddlers Park updates to begin in April including sidewalk, ramps, fishing pads, concrete mattress boat launch, and concrete connection to the street.

Golf Simulator: Rentals have been successful and continue to grow each month.

c. Planning and Grants Updates

Special Note: The Board extended its sincere appreciation to Robert Reed for over 20 years of dedicated service on the Advisory Recreation Board. Congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your commitment to the community.

9. ITEMS FOR FUTURE ADVISORY RECREATION BOARD MEETINGS

Continue discussion of 5d Cemetery Flower Planting Ordinance Change

10. NEXT MEETING - May 20th, 2026

11. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Dan Cortte, Seconded by Travis Kadow.

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Hooper, Parks & Recreation Office Manager

