

PARK AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Tuesday, July 08, 2025
Comiskey Park Building, 255 E 24th Street,
Dubuque, Iowa 52001

PRESENT: Jennifer Tigges, Lori Ollendick, Ron Axtell, Josh Jorgenson,
Robin Kennicker, Jason Henkel

ABSENT: Jessica Ochoa

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Kroger, Angie Metcalf

CALL TO ORDER: Tigges called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED; VOTE:

It was moved by Kennicker, seconded by Axtell, to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2025, meeting.

OATH OF OFFICE - LORI OLLENDICK, JOSH JORGENSEN, JASON HENKEL:

Lori Ollendick, Josh Jorgenson, and Jason Henkel were sworn into the Parks and Recreation Commission and signed the Oaths of Office.

ELECTION OF OFFIERS:

It was moved by Kennicker and seconded by Ollendick to elect Jess Ochoa as Chairperson, Lori Ollendick as Vice-chairperson, and Ron Axtell as Secretary for fiscal year 2026.

PUBLIC INPUT:

None.

DISCUSSION AND FINIALIZATION OF TOUR DESTINATIONS IN SEPTEMBER:

It was discussed and finalized that the 2025 facility tour will be September 9th, 2025 at Eagle Point Park starting at 4:30 p.m. and going to 6:00 p.m..

PARKS AND RECREATION COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN UPDATE:

Recreation Division manager Dan Kroger provided updates on the Master Plan as well as details regarding upcoming public engagement sessions that are scheduled.

DIVISON MANAGER UPDATE:

Recreation Division manager Dan Kroger provided an update to the Parks and Recreation Department leadership structure. Effective July 7th, Marie Ware has retired from the Parks and Recreation Director position. She will then step into the role of Project and Facilities Manager working 20 hours per week while Jared Charland is serving our country effective July 8th until Jared's return and reorientation. Her last day will be November 3rd. Steve Fehsal has been named Interim Parks and Recreation Director until a permanent director is hired.

COMMISSION COMMUNICATION / QUESTIONS:

Commissioner Tigges shared a letter she received from Dubuque Area Land and Water Legacy.

Commissioner Kennicker asked for details regarding the lighted boat parade that the Parks and Recreation Department is hosting August 9th. Parks Division Manager Kroger provided information.

Commissioner Axtell had questions on a greenspace park that may be going in in the Historic Millwork District. Kroger had advised the Planning Department is heading that.

Commissioner Henkel had been asked by a community art group about painting of the Jefferson Wall. Henkel wanted to know what the proper procedure for that would be. Kroger advised he should reach out to Parks Division Manager, Steve Fehsal.

ADJOURNMENT:

It was moved by Kennicker, seconded by Henkel, to adjourn the meeting 5:30 p.m. Unanimous.