PARK BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
March 31, 2026
7:00 pm, Town Hall, Town of Troy

Members Present: Jill Berke, Mark Swanson, Michele McElmeel, Dan Pearson, Adrian Missy, Gary Sumner, Caleb Johnson (via Zoom)

Members Absent:

Others present: Marty Oian

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1. **Call to Order**
   Chair Berke called the meeting of the Town of Troy Park Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Resident Comment**
   No resident comment.

3. **Approval of minutes, including review and discussion**
   The February 24th, 2026 Park Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Member Swanson moved to accept the minutes of the February 24th, 2026 meeting; second by member McElmeel. Member Johnson, via Zoom, made a friendly amendment to the withdrawn motion on page 2 under 5 b. to read "Chair Berke moved to recommend to the Town Board an annual fee to be $100 for Wisconsin residents and $150 for non-resident." Members Swanson and McElmeel accepted the friendly amendment. Motion unanimously carried.

4. **Discuss and consider, Park Ranger Feb. Report**
   The Park Ranger report was reviewed. Chair Berke thanked member Missy for working on the security system with Ranger Gunderson. Member Missy moved to acknowledge the February 2026 Ranger report; second by member McElmeel. Motion unanimously carried.

Park Reports:

5. **Cove Boat Ramp**
   a. **Discussion and possible recommendation to Town Board on allowing automotive access on the Boat Ramp in winter**
      Member Johnson requested this be on the agenda; he does not see a reason to prohibit automotive access during the winter as it does not damage the ramp. Chair Berke suggested that additional research is

needed. Admin. Carlson explained that this vehicle prohibition is in the ordinance, but most municipalities do not prohibit automotive access on their ramps. Allowing automotive access would require amending the ordinance. He said there is no legal liability for the Town and there is no DNR requirement that it must be allowed, either. Chair Berke is concerned with the safety of vehicles on this section of the St. Croix River, noting that the ice is known to be thin south of the boat ramp. Chair Berke moved to table this agenda item until a future meeting. Motion withdrawn. Matter to be on the April agenda for further discussion and consideration.

b. Activity

Chair Berke reported the ice has not totally melted as of this past Saturday. Member Johnson lost his Zoom connection at 7:53 p.m.

c. Dock and gangway installation

Windmill Marina plans to install the dock and gangway this week or next when the ice is out.

d. Report, Town Board approval of fee increases and plan to update sign

Town Board approved the Park Board's fee recommendation at the March meeting. Clarification that updated fee schedule reflects two categories, specifically Wisconsin residents, and non-Wisconsin residents. Admin. Carlson reported the sign has been temporarily updated and he will work with Lebo Sign Works on permanent signage updates.

6. <u>Glover Park</u>

a. Discuss and consider, plan to re-winterize the community building and preparation for pickleball court use

Agenda item should read "de-winterize". Pickleball nets are up and Countryside Plumbing will de-winterize the building the week of April 13th. Admin. Carlson noted the door locking system will change with the Town-wide security updates, hopefully by next winter. He thanked member Missy for being very helpful with the security system.

b. Discuss and consider, renewal of agreement with ball organizations and recommendation to the Town Board

This agenda item was moved up as Marty Oian of River Falls Youth Baseball Organization (RFYBO) was in attendance. Admin. Carlson explained that he re-drafted the ball team contracts into three individual contracts with River Falls Youth Baseball Organization, Hudson Booster Club, and River Falls girls softball team. He has worked with RFYBO on this contract but has not heard back from Hudson Booster Club. River Falls has 6 teams scheduled for 3 nights (Tues., Thurs., and Sunday), girls softball has 1 night (Friday), and Hudson baseball has 2 nights (Monday and Wednesday). If Hudson doesn't have enough teams, softball could

have another night. He is waiting for feedback from the Town Attorney on the contracts. He noted that all three contracts are identical except for the dates. All contracts are for 1 year due to demand and all tournament language has been removed as teams are no longer hosting tournaments. Teams can reserve fields through the normal process if needed for a tournament. The contract length was discussed and Marty Oian explained that they set their teams in August for the next year, so he would be back in June to discuss the 2027 season. He explained that they have 6 teams that play at Glover and they need to know the plan early, or they may have to cut teams. He discussed River Falls' contribution to the fields and noted their spring field clean-up is in early April. River Falls does most of the work on the fields. The maintenance is in exchange for field use as the Town does not charge the ball organizations for field use. (Gary Sumner arrived at 7:46 p.m.)

They will not be selling concessions as they only did that during tournaments. The deposit is the same and the Town may already have it, as it usually rolls over. Member Pearson moved that the Park Board recommends moving these three contracts for River Falls Youth Baseball Organization, River Falls Youth Softball Association, and the Hudson Boosters Baseball Organization to the Town Board for consideration; second by member Missy. Motion unanimously carried, minus member Johnson as his Zoom connection was lost.

c. **Discuss and consider, recommendation to the Town Board to purchase an accessible picnic table**

Chair Berke reviewed costs for a 6ft. and 8 ft. accessible picnic table for wheelchair or walker use. The 8 ft. table is an exact match to the existing ADA compliant table located at the Community Building pavilion. The new table would be placed at the Hein Pavilion, and the current table can be re-located south of the bike repair station where a picnic table was originally located for visitor use; it was moved to the pickleball court area.

Admin. Carlson suggested showing the Town Board that this is the best price; they will also want to know the location and any associated costs with installation. Chair Berke noted that research was done during 2026 budget discussions and that a picnic table standard had been established when the North pavilion was outfitted with picnic tables. Chair Berke moved that the Park Board recommend to the Town Board the purchase of the 8' ADA accessible table from Pilot Rock in the amount of $1,972 including shipping for Hein Pavilion at Glover Park; second by member Swanson. Motion unanimously carried. Chair Berke will write up a narrative for the Town Board explaining that she considered more than one vendor, and this is the best option for cost and maintaining the standard at the park.

d. Discuss and consider, recommendation to the Town Board for the storage building and Hein Pavilion Roof Replacement

Chair Berke believed both the storage building roof and Hein Pavilion roof replacement was already approved by the Town Board as recommended by the Park Board last fall during the budget process. Admin. Carlson will get quotes for a future meeting. This expense was part of the overall budget but other town budget items came up unexpectedly. Chair Berke noted that the storage building roof needs replacement more urgently than the Hein Pavilion. Sections of the pavilion roof were replaced in Dec. 2024.

e. Discuss and consider, subcommittee report-Little Free Library contest

The subcommittee members Swanson, Johnson, and Chair Berke met and put together a proposal that includes a defined objective, design guidelines, the proposed location at Glover Park, a publicity strategy, budget, process to pick a winner, the installation plan, and the timeline. She talked with Supr. Schneider about the project, and she will post information on the Town's Facebook page and Town Clerk Fredrick will post on the Town website. (Member Johnson rejoined the meeting at 8:17 p.m.) Member Missy volunteered to pull security camera screenshots for the next meeting to help choose the appropriate location at Glover. The installation date can be flexible based on when new security system is in place. Member Swanson moved to move forward with the Little Free Library contest plan; second by member Sumner. Motion unanimously carried.

f. Discuss and consider plan for 2026 continuation of invasives project

Member Sumner reported that buckthorn is still the biggest concern and he reviewed the next partitions to continue overall plan, including finishing up the "red" Woodland Flower and Bluff partition area and then moving to "brown" Oak Trail partition. He would like the correctional center work crew to come out hopefully the third week in April. Discussed if using goats had been considered for eradicating buckthorn. Chair Berke and member Sumner expressed that goats eat everything, including the native plants, existing tree branches, and new young trees. Member Missy will send member Sumner some studies he read that support using goats.

Chair Berke will contact Sgt. Stinson at the St. Croix Correctional Center to schedule the work crew and also contact Habitat Creations to see if they can make it out before the correctional center crew comes. Member Sumner noted that the buckthorn in the Oak Trail area is very heavy in places and spray may be more effective; Habitat Creations should spray in the fall if they can't make it this spring. Admin. Carlson will order the weed pullers that were approved for purchase. In May/June, garlic mustard can be pulled, noting this is a good volunteer project. Sumner will do more research on the best way to deal with the invasive honeysuckle on the east side of Eagle Trail, and that possibly Public Works can use their bobcat to

pull out. He will also move the brush pile by the park entrance closer to the road so Public Works crew can pick it up any time this summer. Discussed formalizing "Friends of Glover Park" also for encouraging more volunteers for the invasives project.

g. Discuss and consider plan to request proposals for mowing and maintenance

Admin. Carlson reported that the Town has started distributing the mowing and maintenance RFP and should have a contractor selected in the next two weeks. Chair Berke will let him know the exact location of the native prairie plantings at Glover so they don't get mowed and he will update the map.

7. <u>Pemble's Access</u>

a. Discuss and consider preparation for May 1 Season opening

Admin. Carlson will contact Five Star Rental for the satellite installation, and Public Works will do their usual clean-up. Signs to be installed near beach.

8. <u>General Park</u>

a. Discuss and consider, 2026-31 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP) timeline

Chair Berke talked to Rob Jones at Cedar Corp. yesterday, and he will be meeting Friday with other Cedar Corp. staff to determine a second planner to work with him on the 2026-31 Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (CORP). Preliminary plan is that Chair Berke, members McElmeel and Missy will meet with Cedar Corp. assigned staff at the Town Hall the week of April 13th. There will be follow-up zoom meetings with subcommittee; initial work will include timeline, finalizing survey questionnaire for resident input, objectives and strategies for CORP. Updates will be given to Park Board, followed up by a recommendation to the Town Board.

b. Discuss and consider recommendations to the Town Board policy standards for permanent commemoration to recognize outstanding service to the Parks.

At last month's meeting, the Park Board recommended to the Town Board approval of the recognition plaques, acknowledging 30 years service of former member Jim Freund, and the Hudson Hospital Foundation donation to the bike repair station. The Park Board initially made the recommendation in 2024; however it has not gone to the Town Board yet. Admin. Carlson feels there are many issues with recognition signage and noted there are different ways to acknowledge contributions. He would like to see a standard on recognition plaques and how the decision gets made.

Member Swanson noted that standardization makes the recognition lose value and that the Park Board did not recommend this lightly. Chair Berke explained the precedence behind the plaques, noting 10 year exemplary service (2004-2014) of former Park Board member Charlie Macdonell; and Bob Enloe's (Glover Park founder) permanent plaques at the park, as well as the recognition plaque, listing names of all Eagle Scout projects. She explained that there is a format standard in place. Supr. Pearson will talk to Town Chair Doug Rowen, requesting that the Park Board's recommendation be placed on the Town Board agenda; and Chair Berke will make the presentation to the Town Board.

9. **Administrator's Report**
   Admin. Carlson did not have anything additional to report.

10. **Park Chair Report**
    Chair Berke reported that she has seen increased activity at Glover Park. Town Chair Doug Rowen will be reaching out to member Sumner about renewing his appointment; she also let Chair Rowen know after the March meeting that member Johnson is not renewing his appointment.

11. **Correspondence**
    There was no correspondence to review.

12. **Announcements and request for future agenda items:**
    The Town may be adding some park space with the Town hall expansion project and relocation of the disposal center. Future agenda items include automotive access at the boat launch and formalizing a Friends of Glover Park volunteer group. Chair Berke reported that the Hudson Rotary organizations are hosting a "Skills for Disagreeing Better" workshop at the Hudson YMCA on April 14th.

13. **Adjournment**
    Member Swanson moved to adjourn the meeting; second by member Sumner. Motion unanimously carried. The March 31st, 2026 meeting of the Town of Troy Park Board adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Randall
Secretary, Town of Troy Park Board