

**HARTFORD PARK AND RECREATION BOARD-REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**February 23, 2026**

**Park & Recreation Board Meeting called to order:**

- **By:** Tim Weber – President
- **Time:** 6:30 PM
- **Location:** Hartford City Hall

**ROLL CALL**

**Board:**

- Tim Weber – President
- Wendy Kuehl – Vice President
- Frank Blaine – Secretary (Absent with Notice)
- Duncan Woodhull
- Chad Morrison
- Keith Carlson - City Council Representative
- Craig Wagner – City Employee Representative

**Others:**

- Teresa Sidel
- 1 Person from the Public

**1) APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion** was made to approve the agenda as set:

- Motion was made by: Kuehl
- Seconded by: Woodhull
- All voted yes, motion carried.

**2) APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve Minutes from the January 26, 2026 meeting:

- Motion was made by: Weber
- Seconded by: Kuehl
- All voted yes, motion carried.

**3) PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**4) Reports on Non-Agenda Items**

- Carlson reported that the City Council released \$275,000 in Park & Rec Budget funds to allow the Board to move forward with designated projects for 2026, along with the refurbishment of 3 park shelters. This still leaves \$25,000 in unallocated funds that the Board could utilize for a future project(s).

## 5) OLD BUSINESS

### a) Swenson Park –

#### i) Concession Stand Discussion:

Dave Dershen with the Main Street Humboldt Bar has indicated that he is interested in operating the concession stand for 2026. He has experience with running a concession stand and access to staff. He proposed to have exclusivity for all games and tournaments with the city providing the building at no charge this first year to see how sales go. Sidel will touch base with him again in March to confirm commitment.

#### ii) Charging for Maintenance of fields: On-going conversation on how the Board can help offset the field maintenance cost. The Board will continue to focus on advertising signage to assist in covering some of the costs of maintenance.

#### iii) Business Advertising via Signage:

Currently there are 15 entities that have committed to either a banner or scoreboard sign – with a few committing to multiple banners. Total sales from advertising agreements from 2025-2028 is \$25,500. Woodhull also noted that he received a cash donation from A1 Portables for the sports complex. Woodhull continues to reach out to entities for future donations and Sidel is working with each entity and Checkered Grafx to get mockups for the signage.

\*\*Woodhull excused himself at 6:51pm

### b) 2026 Budget Items –

#### i) Lyons Park

- (1) **Playground System for younger kids.** New play equipment for younger kids has been ordered and a spring installation is anticipated.
- (2) **Pickleball Court.** Wagner is still looking into pricing and possible alternative concrete options to help with cracking. More information will be presented at a future meeting.
- (3) **Pickleball Practice Board.** This will be included in the construction of the new pair of courts.
- (4) **Ag-Lime for Field A.** City staff will proceed with work in early Spring.

#### ii) Swenson Park

- (1) **New Entrance Sign.** The Board has approved a design and the sign has been ordered. Production time is roughly 8-10 weeks. Sidel reached out to the Swenson Family and they have declined to donate.
- (2) **Swenson Park Bleachers and Shade Structures:** No update.
- (3) **2 Score Boards.** No update.
- (4) **Netting between Black Tie and Soccer Fields.** No Update.

#### iii) Turtle Creek Park

- (1) **Concrete Tee Pads for Disc Course –** City needs to confirm hole placement and get a quote.

#### iv) Possible Additions with unallocated Funds.

- (1) **Park Shelters.** With the release of funding by the city council, staff has been working on refurbishing the park shelters at Lyons Park.

**c) Review 1-5 Year Capital Improvement Plan:**

- i) Review Park Master Plan for future planning & development of our 1-5 year CIP.** The city's park CIP was reviewed. The Board continues to discuss possible future projects. It was noted that the new 38 North Development on the east side of town will have an area for a future park and could be ready for development as soon as 2028. Carlson talked about various buildings that have indoor sport facilities with retractable roofs – some even incorporate a daycare in the building. This may be a future option for the city to consider.
- ii) Discuss possible grant application submission for trail to Swenson Park.** Currently the SDGFP is accepting application for recreational trails. This is an 80/20 grant and could be utilized for the proposed trail from 12<sup>th</sup> Street to the Swenson Sports Complex. Applications are due in April and usually awarded in late summer/fall. If received, the trail could be planned for 2027 construction. A motion was made by Weber, second by Morrison, to recommend submitting an application for the SDGFP Recreational Trail Grant for the Swenson Park Trail to the city council – all voted yes, motion carried.

**6) NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Review Chamber Application for Economic Development Funds.** The City Council budgeted \$100,000 for Economic Development Projects this year that individuals, groups, businesses, etc. can apply for. The Chamber has submitted a possible project that they would like to submit to the council for approval. Since this project will be within the city's parkland, review by this Board was suggested in order to vet the project and make a recommendation to the council. The Chamber would like to place some solar lighting, with banners on both sides (similar to the lights downtown) along the trail through Turtle Creek Park and along the east side of the school property. This project should comply with all city regulations for lighting. Most of the trail is on city property or within city right-of-way but part of this trail is upon school property so the Chamber will need to get permission from the school for any placement on their land – Skots has reached out to Dr. Knight to discuss. The Chamber is asking for \$25,000 from the city to help with the cost of the poles and banners, for city installation, and for city maintenance. The Chamber would sell banner advertisement and maintain and update the banners as needed. Wagner has concerns about the bolted poles – he stated that the poles will need to be solid in ground to withstand the wind and elements – Skots will look into an updated price quote. The Board felt that this addition would enhance the trail. A motion was made by Kuehl, second by Weber to recommend approval of the plan to the city council – all voted yes, motion carried.
- b) Discuss special meeting with Gateway Hartford.** Gateway Hartford Inc is a newly formed entity that will be working to remediate and clean up the city's lagoon land. They will be working on a master plan to redevelop this area, along with the Cressman land directly to the west of the lagoons. In order to help facilitate a master plan for this entire area, GHI would like to meet with a couple of Park & Rec Board representative to get any feedback on how future Park & Rec needs/initiatives could align with the redevelopment vision of GHI. They have proposed a few possible dates to meet with a couple of Board members. Morrison has indicated that he will participate, and Weber will as well unless Blaine plans to attend. Sidel will help coordinate the meeting with Board members and GHI.
- c) America's 250<sup>th</sup>.** America's 250<sup>th</sup> is coming up this July 4<sup>th</sup>. Cities are asked to help recognize this in any way possible. The City Council will have future discussion on what we can do as a city – if any Board member has an idea, reach out to Sidel.

**7) Other Items**

**a) Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- (1) Review 2026 Budget
- (2) Review 1-5 Park CIP
- (3) Discuss Booth at Jamboree Days

**8) ADJORNMENT**

**Motion:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion was made by: Kuehl

Seconded by: Morrison

Time of Motion: 7:34 pm

All voted yes, motion carried.

**a) Next Meeting – March 23, 2026**

**MEETING CERTIFICATION**

I, Teresa Sidel, Hartford City Administrator, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing are a true and correct copy of the minutes which are on file at Hartford City Hall.