

HARTFORD PARK AND RECREATION BOARD-REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 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
- Duncan Woodhull
- Chad Morrison
- Keith Carlson - City Council Representative
- Craig Wagner – City Employee Representative (Absent with Notice)

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: Morrison
- All voted yes, motion carried.

2) APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion: A motion was made to approve Minutes from the February 23, 2026 meeting:

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

3) PUBLIC COMMENTS

None originally. Returned to this item at end of meeting as one person arrived. Cooper Tracey wanted to discuss the possibility of the city acquiring land near Western Avenue between Ramona and 5th Street and establish a park. Board will table for now and consider for the 5-year plan.

4) Reports on Non-Agenda Items

- Sidel read Wagner’s report and updated the board on 2026 projects (captured later in the minutes).

5) OLD BUSINESS

a) Swenson Park –

i) Concession Stand Discussion:

Dave Dershen with the Main Street Humboldt Bar has confirmed he is interested in operating the concession stand for 2026. Will track utilities for first year comparison.

ii) Charging for Maintenance of fields: No new update. Will remove this item from future agenda.

iii) Business Advertising via Signage:

Currently there are 27 entities that have committed to either a banner or scoreboard sign – with a few committing to multiple banners. 12 others interested in future years. Total sales from advertising agreements from 2025-2028 is \$45,500. 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.

b) 2026 Budget Items –

i) Lyons Park

(1) **Playground System for younger kids.** New play equipment for younger kids has arrived and spring installation is anticipated.

(2) **Pickleball Court.** Wagner investigated pricing and possible alternative concrete options to help with cracking. Further discussion at a future meeting by Wagner. Bathroom is complete and will be opened once weather permits. Suggestion to post open play times to increase morning utilization.

(3) **Pickleball Practice Board.** This will be included in the construction of the new pair of courts.

(4) **Ag-Lime for Field A.** Ag-Lime is on site and will be applied over the next two weeks. ISG is going to survey to assist with installation.

ii) Swenson Park

(1) **New Entrance Sign.** Expect June arrival of new sign.

(2) **Swenson Park Bleachers and Shade Structures:** Awaiting pricing.

(3) **2 Score Boards.** Getting quotes.

(4) **Netting between Black Tie and Soccer Fields.** Wagner would like to discuss options/ideas with the Board.

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.** Roof and refurbishment complete on 3 shelters.

c) Review 1-5 Year Capital Improvement Plan:

i) Review Park Master Plan for future planning & development of our 1-5 year CIP.

(1) Wagner received estimate for new basketball court at \$46,000, will consider for 2027 budget.

ii) Discuss possible grant application submission for trail to Swenson Park.

(1) Board signed letter requesting support for the grant application from the City Council

- (2) West Central School has provided a letter of support for the grant application.
- (3) ISG working on cost figures.
- (4) This grant requires a 20% cost share which will likely allocate a significant portion of the 2027 Park and Recreation Budget.

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 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. City Council discussed and tabled pending receipt of more information.
- b) **Discuss special meeting with Gateway Hartford Inc (GHI).** Morrison and Blaine met with the steering committee. GHI will be working on a master plan to redevelop this area, along with the Cressman land directly to the west of the lagoons and the School District on future plans. Provided feedback on how future Park & Rec needs/initiatives could align with the redevelopment vision of GHI. Plans could provide synergy between senior living, school, potential employers, and business development for common use areas.
- c) **America's 250th.** America's 250th is coming up this July 4th. 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.
- d) **Booth at Jamboree Days.** Will plan on having Park and Recreation Board members at a booth in Lyons Park during Jamboree Days following the parade.

7) Other Items

- a) **Agenda Items for Next Meeting**
 - (1) Review 2026 Budget
 - (2) Review 1-5 Park CIP
 - (3) Grant Application

8) ADJORNMENT

Motion: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting.
Motion was made by: Weber
Seconded by: Kuehl
Time of Motion: 7:32 pm
All voted yes, motion carried.

- a) **Next Meeting** – April 27, 2026

MEETING CERTIFICATION

I, Frank Blaine, Secretary, 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.