

Village of Weston, Wisconsin
MEETING MINUTES OF THE PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, January 26, 2026, 4:00 pm

- 1.) Meeting called to order by Vice Chair Kern @ 4:00 P.M.
- 2.) Pledge Allegiance to the Flag
- 3.) Roll Call by Recording Secretary: Jessica Falkowski

<u>Member</u>	<u>Present</u>
Clark, Katrina	YES
Esker, Roger	YES
Kern, Mark (VC)	YES
Lopes Serrao, Luis (C)	ABSENT, EXCUSED
Tatro, Scott	YES

Village Staff and other officials in attendance: Falkowski (Clerk), Administrator Gebert, Director Osterbrink, and Director Wodalski.

4.) Approval of minutes from the previous meeting: November 24, 2025.

***M/S/P: Tatro/Esker to approve November 24, 2025, minutes.**

Yes Votes: 4 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: Pass

<u>Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Clark, Katrina	YES
Esker, Roger	YES
Kern, Mark	YES
Lopes Serrao, Luis	-----
Tatro, Scott	YES

5.) Public Comments

None.

6.) Written Comments.

None.

EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS.

7.) Update on the Kennedy Park Renovation and Capital Campaign.

Director Osterbrink stated that an update is in the packet.

Renovation:

- The structural steel was installed on the dugouts late December and a different contractor will be installing the roof panels, but no timeline of when they will be installed.

Capital Campaign:

- The Friends of Kennedy Park were awarded two grants totaling \$15,000 along with some individual donations.
- The Glow Games Wiffle Ball Fundraiser is scheduled February 28, 2026, and the Turf Tournament is scheduled March 20-22, 2026. Both events will be held at the Greenheck Turner Community Center.
- Community Foundation Fund balance is \$55,435.67. This balance does not include the donation of \$30,000 from Merrill Iron and Steel.

Staff received the banner to advertise for the Glow Games Event. The banner will be installed at Kennedy Park. Director Osterbrink also received flyers for the Turf Tournament.

Jimmy Olafson elaborated more on the Glow Games Tournament. Olafson stated there will be 50 plus raffle baskets, 24 plus teams participating in the Wiffle Ball Games, many business donations, DJ will be playing music, and other games for attendees to participate in besides the Wiffle Ball Tournament. This fundraiser is also paired with Sextortion Education and Lights and Scholarship in Bradyn's name.

8.) Update on Yellowbanks Disc Golf Course.

Director Osterbrink stated staff are working on a plan with TC Energies to allow access over the pipelines with the necessary equipment to conduct maintenance on the course. Last fall the Village ordered and received mats to be placed over the pipeline crossing areas. TC Energies collected depths to determine what is necessary to safely cross those areas with heavy equipment. Falkowski stated, due to the Village requesting permanent access versus temporary, more information is needed. The engineering staff from TC Energies must review the depths data, possible equipment type used and weights before stating what is needed to complete each pipeline crossing. Falkowski will send the requested information to their engineering department.

9.) Update on Yellowbanks Launch.

Director Osterbrink stated that staff will finish the restoration in spring once the weather allows. Falkowski submitted reimbursement documents to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for review. Once approved, the Village will be reimbursed \$48,000.

The Village also received funds from the following organizations:

- Marathon County Transportation Coordinating Committee (MCTCC) \$40,540.50
- Wausau Marathon County Parks Foundation \$5,000.00

- Impact Grant from the Community Foundation \$15,000.00
- Kiwanis Club of Wausau \$2,500.00

NEW BUSINESS

10.) Discussion Only Presentation of Draft Plan Concepts and Goals for Weston Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Administrator Gebert introduced Jody Rader with HKGi. Jody gave the presentation on the Weston Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Plan Objectives:

- Improve facilities and infrastructure
- Address a variety of users
- Make connections – parks, schools, place of employment, neighborhoods, etc.
- Encourage and educate
- Prioritize and implement projects

Schedule:

- Task 1 – Data collection, mapping analysis and review existing plans
- Task 2 – Community engagement events – host open houses and draft plan concepts
- Task 3 – Draft policies and network plan

Outreach & Project Communications:

- Project Website: www.westonwi.gov/950/Village-of-Weston-Bicycle-and-Pedestrian
- Channel 7 News Story – Administrator Gebert
- Village Newsletter Article
- Social Media posts and emails
- Print Media - flyers and business cards
- Community Survey
 - 316 responded to a survey that was open to the public from 9/19/2025 – 11/14/2025 with 2% of the population being from Weston
 - Who We Heard From: survey results showed a good range of representation in race, ethnicity, and ages of participants. Answers from participants that rated the highest
 - 75.5% of respondents stated they own their home
 - 38.1% of participants checked Enthusiastic and Confident about riding on quieter streets within bike lanes
 - People are mainly biking and walking for exercise and pleasure/recreation
 - Barriers to using trails in Weston – top 3 answers:
 - Lack of trails leading to where I want to go
 - Concern about motorists using technology
 - Concern about personal safety
 - Most important destinations when using trails – top 4 answers

- Parks
 - Residential areas
 - Shopping, dining, and entertainment
 - Schools
- Level of importance for biking and walking in Weston
 - Ability to get to my destination as quickly as possible – 48.8% Somewhat Important
 - Having off-road trails for walking and biking that are separate from motorized traffic – 65.4% Very Important
 - Safety for all roadways users – 87.6% Very Important
 - Having scenic and comfortable trails near parks and natural corridors – 58.0% Very Important
 - Safe intersection crossings and facilities – 78.1% Very Important
 - Availability of trails in winter for fat tire biking – 66.7% Not Important
 - Sidewalks and trails that are cleared in winter – 39.8% Very Important
- Trail types that are used more than others – top 3
 - Paved trails – 82.2%
 - Soft surface trails – 56.5%
 - On-street bikeways – 20.2%
- Weston trails – most used daily
 - Camp Phillips Multi-use Path
- Overall satisfaction with Weston’s sidewalk, trail, and bike network
 - Overall average rating – 3, with 39.8% answering Neutral/no opinion
- What features that would make it more comfortable to bike or walk – top 6
 - Scenic viewpoints/destinations – 50.4%
 - Wayfinding/signage/maps – 48.7%
 - Shade trees – 48.3%
 - Public restrooms – 43.2%
 - Lighting – 39.8%
 - Benches/rest stops – 35.2%
- Maptionnaire – interactive map open to the public 9/19/2025-11/14/2025
 - 456 visits to the site
 - 304 comments were provided
 - Site visitors could place a dot on the map indicating
 - ❖ What People Like – example Eau Claire River Trail
 - ❖ Ideas – adding/extending/connecting more trails
 - ❖ Concerns – safety, intersection crossings
- Stakeholder Meeting – 10/29/2025
 - 12 participants
 - Main topic of discussion – connecting trails to water points like the Eau Claire River
- Open House – 11/6/2025 at Dale’s Weston Lanes
 - Approximately 25 attended
 - Comments
 - Preferences for shared used paths that are separate from vehicles
 - Connections to Yellowbanks Park

- Concerns with E-bikes, etiquette and education within the community
- Analysis/Existing Conditions
 - Reviewed relevant plans and documents
 - Reviewed regional, statewide, and national trends
 - Existing biking and walking facilities
 - Community destinations
 - Existing and future land use
 - Existing trailheads and water access locations
 - Hydrology and topography
 - Crash data and traffic volume data
 - ADA and safety audit at 10 identified intersections
- Issues and Challenges in Weston
 - High Volume highways and roads that create barriers – HWY 29, Schofield Ave and Camp Phillips
 - Gaps in existing biking and walking network
 - Trails do not connect to each other
 - Growing areas - less connection to biking and walking network
 - Sidewalk installation inconsistent throughout Weston
 - Safety concerns – busy intersections, increase in E-bike usage which travel at higher speeds along trails and sidewalks
 - Overall costs – facility installation and maintenance
- Opportunities in Weston
 - Address safety concerns – intersection crossings, safe routes to schools
 - Add trails to connect to neighboring communities, businesses, schools, medical destinations, parks, YMCA, etc. and create loop trails
 - Better to serve people of all ages and abilities
 - Strengthening connections to natural and scenic areas
 - Introducing programming, education, and incentive programs
- Draft Vision
 - The people of Weston recognize that multimodal connectivity is a major factor in what makes this community a desirable place to live.
 - The Village will work to elevate comfort, safety, accessibility and quality of life for residents and visitors by providing a well-connected bicycle and pedestrian network that serves people of all ages and abilities.
- Goals and Objectives – 9 goals
 - Develop a well-connected bicycle and pedestrian network that links a variety of facilities together into a cohesive transportation system that accommodates users of all ages, abilities, including those with disabilities that cannot drive.
 - Develop a prioritized network plan and leverage alternative funding sources for implementation
 - Design roads to be compatible with surrounding uses and to be pedestrian and bicycle friendly
 - Reduce the number and severity of crashes with particular emphasis on reducing motor vehicle-bicycle and vehicle-pedestrian conflicts and crashes
 - Provide adequate education, encouragement, evaluation, and enforcement programs to supplement facilities and improvements

- Enhance intergovernmental cooperation and coordination for improving multimodal transportation
- Develop, evaluate, and enforce implementation of bicycling and pedestrian-friendly design standards in new developments and roadway reconstruction projects
- Enhance the livability of Weston by improving quality of life as it relates to multimodal transportation for a variety of users
- Increase the number of people who walk or ride a bicycle to work or school, for shopping and utilitarian trips, and for recreation purposes
- Next Steps
 - Concept Development: Draft Network Plan and Objectives
 - Continued Stakeholder Outreach
 - Open House (Feb/March)
 - Draft Plan Document (May)

Clark asked if this project works in conjunction with Marathon County's plan. Director Wodalski responded that Marathon County looks at moving pedestrians throughout the county by routes connecting communities. The Village will partially follow the county's plan but also focuses on the connectivity within the Village, local versus regional.

Clark also asked if people could still participate in the Maptionnaire. Jody stated the comments have been closed on the Maptionnaire but can be opened back up. As of now people can contact staff directly at HKGi. Administrator Gebert considered opening the Maptionnaire closer to the open house.

11.) Discussion and/or possible action on Machmueller Master Plan Request for Proposals.

Director Osterbrink stated with the decision not to move forward with the development of Pickleball courts at Machmueller and baseball more than likely, moving some games to Kennedy Park the use of the park is changing. Does the Village want to move forward with the planning and development of the park. A professional Master Plan has never been created for this park. Director Osterbrink presented a draft RFP for the Committee.

Clark asked if it's the consultant's responsibility to get the community's input. Director Osterbrink responded yes. There would be public meetings for people to submit comments or ideas about the future of the park.

Kern asked the estimated cost for a Master Plan to be completed. Director Osterbrink stated Kennedy Park was \$3,500 and Prohaska was \$5,000. Clark asked where the funding for the Master Plan will come from? Director Osterbrink stated the Finance Committee will make a recommendation to the Board who will make the final decision but Park Impact Fees collected from developers is an option.

Administrator Gebert stated that we have a right to reject all proposals to be added to the RFP.

Director Wodalski stated that the Master Plan can be created for Machmueller but that does

not mean that the Village will start construction immediately.

***M/S/P Tatro/Esker: motion to release the RFP for the development of a Master Plan for Machmueller Park with the suggested change – the right to accept or reject all proposals.**

Yes Votes: 4 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: Pass

<u>Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Clark, Katrina	YES
Esker, Roger	YES
Kern, Mark	YES
Lopes Serrao, Luis	-----
Tatro, Scott	YES

12.) Discussion and/or possible action on Park Shelter Fees and Field Rental Costs.

Director Osterbrink stated that the Committee asked to review the current park shelter fees and field rental costs at the last Park Committee meeting. The addition of the two new turf fields will add some extra maintenance because there will be more use of the fields. The D.C. Everest School District is proposing to play 7 spring games on our fields at Kennedy and know they will have to pay a fee.

Director Osterbrink assembled information from Wisconsin Rapids, DeForest, DC Everest/Greenheck Turner, Wausau School District, Wausau/Marathon County, Rothschild, Rib Mountain, Stevens Point, and Merrill to compare park shelter fees and field rental costs.

Director Osterbrink explained that all our park shelter fees are the same for each park. All costs are listed in the Village of Weston Schedule of fees. All park shelters are provided with picnic tables and electricity. All are provided with restrooms and running water except for Yellowbanks Park. Yellowbanks Park is provided with a portable toilet near both shelters and no running water.

Clark asked if there was prep work done by staff for rentals. Director Osterbrink responded that staff clean and stock the restrooms, garbage cans are emptied by the shelters and staff make sure grills, tables, and shelter floors are cleaned along with picking up garbage around the shelter and playground areas. Clark wants to make sure our costs are covered.

Committee would like staff to base each park rental fee on facilities provided at that specific park and present it at the next meeting.

***M/S/P Tatro/Esler: motion to have staff breakdown each park based on facilities provided and assess the rental fees.**

Yes Votes: 4 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: Pass

<u>Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Clark, Katrina	YES
Esler, Roger	YES
Kern, Mark	YES
Lopes Serrao, Luis	-----
Tatro, Scott	YES

Committee and staff discussed field rental prices. Director Osterbrink included Wausau School District, Wisconsin Rapids, DeForest, Wausau/Marathon County, Greenheck Turner Community Center, and Merrill because they have turf and dirt fields and some fields have lights.

Clark asked if we know the cost of running the lights. Director Osterbrink stated that we could have an audit done by WPS. Since we have one field, we could turn the lights on for a specific amount of time and calculate a cost.

Clark asked if D.C. Everest Youth Baseball (DCEYB) or any other user groups pay to utilize our fields. Director Osterbrink responded that non-profit Weston based youth organizations do not get charged to use our facilities. Director Wodalski added that DCEYB has invested in our fields and has helped financially with upgrades and maintaining the fields – infield material, purchased field dry, batting cages, storage sheds, backstops, etc. Administrator Gebert stated that user agreements will be completed before spring about maintenance items to be completed in turn for utilizing the fields. User agreements will be different for Friends of Kennedy Park versus outside users.

Clark asked how much staff time is put into our fields outside of DCEYB conducting maintenance to determine a user fee or to add a fee to recoup labor costs. Director Osterbrink stated that staff time has decreased considerably since DCEYB took over most of the maintenance. Staff mow, paint the foul lines, and occasionally drag the fields.

Administrator Gebert stated staff will assemble costs for the lights and do comparables with the 2 communities that are like us and bring back the information next month. Committee agreed with Administrator Gebert.

13.) Discussion and/or action Aquatic Center Pump and Valve Replacement.

Director Osterbrink stated that an RFC is in the packet. In 2023 the company that manufactures our pumps discontinued making them and there was a limited number of parts remaining in stock. All four pumps will have to be replaced. The new replacement pumps are different in size so the motors, plumbing, and concrete bases for the motors will have to be changed. The quote

also includes some valve and gear operator replacements, new anchors in the filter pit, and the state will have to approve the updated plans before any work can be completed. Additional option is to add VFD's to all 4 motors for \$40,270.00. VFD's extend the life of the new motors. We currently have a VFD on the main motor.

***M/S/P Tatro/Esker: motion to send the RFC to Finance and Board to have the pumps, valving, and listed items per the quote provided by Neuman Pools Inc. completed at the Aquatic Center. It is Finance and Board's decision whether they would like to add the option to include the VFD's for an additional cost of \$40,270 which does not include installation costs.**

Yes Votes: 4 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: Pass

<u>Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Clark, Katrina	YES
Esker, Roger	YES
Kern, Mark	YES
Lopes Serrao, Luis	-----
Tatro, Scott	YES

FUTURE ITEMS

14.) Possible next meeting date: February 23, 2026

15.) Topics for future meetings:

- a. Kennedy Park User Agreements
- b. Park Shelter Fees
- c. Field Rental Costs
- d. Yellowbanks Disc Golf Course

16.) Remarks from Staff.

Director Osterbrink stated that staff have an upcoming meeting about user agreements.

17.) Remarks from Committee Members

None

18.) Announcements

None.

19.) Adjournment.

***M/S/P Esker/Tatro: motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m.**

Yes Votes: 4 No Votes: 0 Abstain: 0 Not Voting: 1 Result: Pass

<u>Member</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Clark, Katrina	YES
Esker, Roger	YES
Kern, Mark	YES
Lopes Serrao, Luis	-----
Tatro, Scott	YES

Jessica Falkowski, Recording Secretary