

**CITY OF WACONIA  
MARCH 19, 2026**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Regular Meeting of the Waconia Parks & Recreation Board in the City of Waconia Maple Conference room was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Reiners.

Park Board Members Present: Ben Strasheim, Dan O'Brien, Elizabeth DeMeyere, Lucas Reiners, Tami Peterson,

Park Board Members Absent: Leah Soltis

Council Liaison: None

Staff Present: Shane Fineran, Mike Mawdsley

Guests: None

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to Approve made by Park Board Member Peterson, seconded by Park Board Member O'Brien.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to Approve made by Park Board Member Strasheim, seconded by Park Board Member Peterson.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**1) Approve January 18, 2026 Park Board Meeting Minutes**

**4. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**1) Resident Request - Goldenrod Land Parcel**

**Parcel Discussion – 1016 Goldenrod**

Kathleen attended the meeting and shared information about a 1/3-acre parcel located at 1016 Goldenrod. The lot is too small for development but contains several mature, high-quality trees. It is not needed for a park parcel or stormwater management.

The City has already completed some native and prairie restoration on the site, and Prairie Restorations currently has a contract for additional work. It was noted that native restoration sites can take several years for flowers to establish and out compete invasive species like thistle.

Kathleen proposed the idea of installing a peace labyrinth using river rocks, which would require minimal maintenance and could allow for community participation by adding rocks. However, there are several types of labyrinth designs to consider.

Concerns were raised about the site's accessibility and usability:

- There are no dedicated paths leading to the parcel.
- A steep embankment exists between the path and the garden area.
- ADA-compliant access would be required for any seating or features.
- Tami noted potential parking concerns in the area.

Leah, who was not present, provided input in support of a meditation garden concept but expressed that this location may not be ideal. She suggested Sudheimer Park as a better alternative.

Board feedback included:

- Tami would prefer to enhance the area with additional wildflowers and benches while locating a meditation garden elsewhere.
- Ben supported maintaining the natural character of the space.
- Lucas agreed, emphasizing a natural look with proper maintenance and some seating.

It was also noted that the developer remains responsible for tree replacement until the development is complete.

The Park Board supported the labyrinth concept but recommended pursuing it at a different location. The consensus was to maintain this parcel as a natural area with ongoing upkeep. The idea will be added to the CIP for future discussion.

## **5. STAFF PARK ITEMS UPDATE**

Mike provided the following updates:

- Ongoing snow removal efforts.
- Tree trimming throughout the city, including removal of ash trees.
- Fence repairs at Brook Petersen Park.
- Seasonal hiring is underway; 6 of 10 staff from last season are returning.
- A new lead position is being added to the parks team.

- Ball field maintenance will begin as weather allows.
- Electrical upgrades at City Square Park are planned for fall or next spring.
- Work on Pine Hill will begin soon, followed by Island View.
- The City will no longer handle county trail cleanup but will focus on more local areas.

## **6. BOARD UPDATES & QUESTIONS**

The April Meeting will be held on April 23, 2026, and will be the arbor day event with tree planting and a cleanup in local parks.

## **7. ADJOURN**

Motion to Adjourn at 7:52 made by Park Board Member Strasheim, seconded by Park Board Member O'Brien.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

---

Lucas Reiners, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Jurek, Administrative Specialist

**CITY OF WACONIA  
JANUARY 15, 2026**

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Regular Meeting of the Waconia Parks & Recreation Board in the City Council Chambers was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Fineran. Introduced the members of the board.

**Park Board Members Present:** Ben Strasheim, Tami Peterson, Lucas Reiners, Leah Soltis, Elizabeth DeMeyere, Dan O'Brien

**Park Board Members Absent:**

**Council Liaison:** None

**Staff Present:** Shane Fineran

**Guests:** None

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion to Approve made by Park Board Member Peterson, seconded by Park Board Member Strasheim.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**1) Approve November 20, 2025 Park Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion to Approve made by Park Board Member Peterson, seconded by Park Board Member Reiners.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**1) Board Chair & Vice Chair**

A nomination was made by Peterson for Lucas Reiners to be the Park Board Chair. Reiners accepted the nomination.

Motion to Approve made by Park Board Member Peterson, seconded by Park Board Member Strasheim.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

A nomination was made by Strasheim for Tami Peterson to be the Park Board Vice Chair. However, she declined but nominated Ben Strasheim. Strasheim accepted the nomination.

Motion to Approve made by Park Board Member Peterson, seconded by Park Board Member Reiners.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**2) 2026 Park & Trail Capital Project Update**

The following items were discussed to update new board members on projects planned for 2026.

**Pine Hill Playground Replacement** – The existing neighborhood playground will receive new 2–5 age equipment, resilient surfacing, a replaced seating pad, and a new shade structure. Construction is anticipated in late spring.

**Island View Estates Park** – A new neighborhood park will be developed featuring separate playground structures for ages 2–5 and 5–12, an asphalt sports court, and open space. Grading and drainage plans are nearing completion, with construction anticipated in early spring.

**CSAH 10 Trail Extension** – This project will extend the trail along the east side of CSAH 10 from Sterling Road to the trail stub at Waconia Parkway North. Final design is underway while the City awaits cost-share commitment from the Carver County Board.

**CSAH 10 / Sparrow Road Trail & Sidewalk** – In coordination with Carver County’s mill, overlay, and ADA improvements, the City will fund trail and sidewalk extensions along CSAH 10 connecting the Pine Hill development to CSAH 59/Sparrow Road and extending the sidewalk from Kwik Trip #2 to Pinehill Boulevard.

The City Council also authorized applications for two 2027 park projects through the DNR Outdoor Recreation Grant Program: a pickleball court project at Brook Peterson Park (\$265,000 request) and development of Sudheimer Park (\$300,000 request), both requiring matching funds.

Plans for a future dog park were also discussed, though construction will depend on surrounding development timelines.

**5. STAFF PARK ITEMS UPDATE**

**6. BOARD UPDATES & QUESTIONS**

Board Discussion:

Leah asked how likely it is that the City would receive the grants? Shane responded that, as with all grants, the process is highly competitive and there is no way to know the outcome

but we have been successful in the past.

Leah asked whether the trail along CSAH would eventually connect to the Dakota Trail? Shane stated that while this would be desirable, once the trail extends beyond city limits it becomes the County's responsibility to complete the connection.

Leah asked if the dog park could potentially be completed by the summer of 2026? Shane stated that it is very likely the park could be completed if the lift station is approved, noting that the timeline will depend on weather conditions and how quickly the project progresses.

Elizabeth asked about access to Sudheimer Park, which was discussed.

## **7. ADJOURN**

Motion to Adjourn made by Park Board Member Peterson, seconded by Park Board Member Soltis to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm.

**MOTION . CARRIED**

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

---

Lucas Reiners, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Brenda Jurek, Administrative Specialist