

**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

Lacey Shaw, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Brenda Jurek, Administrative Specialist