

**CITY OF WACONIA  
AUGUST 21, 2025**

**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 Shaw.

**Park Board Members Present:** Lacey Shaw, Ben Strasheim, Tami Peterson, Lucas Reiners, Tom Adamini

**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 Adamini, seconded by Park Board Member Peterson.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**1) Approve the July 24, 2025, Park Board Meeting Minutes**

**4. REGULAR BUSINESS**

**1) Dog Park**

**Location, Size, Access & Parking**

- Standard municipal dog parks are 3–5 acres.
- Few open parcels currently meet that requirement.
- Example site: Airport Road & Co. Rd 92.
- Peterson mentioned a few other sites, but land ownership/availability is uncertain.
- Future developments may be the best opportunity to secure adequate land.
- 95% of users drive, so adequate parking is essential.

**Design & Operations**

- **If Phasing could be an option:**
- Phase 1: Fence open space for immediate use.

- Phase 2: Add amenities and improvements.
- Sanitation: Regular trash pickup must be budgeted.
- Noise: Consider impacts on adjacent properties.

## **Funding**

- Partial funding could come from the sewer fund.
- Additional funding would need to come from park dedication funds.

## **Priorities**

- Shane: Requesting direction from the board on how/where this project fits into priorities and the CIP.
- Shaw & Peterson: Support concept, but priority should remain on existing park projects (Sudheimer Park, pickleball courts).
- Adamini: Agrees with the concept, but stresses completing current park projects first.
- Strasheim: Dog park and pickleball should be considered contingent projects, ready to act when conditions allow.

## **Options for Next Steps**

1. **Prioritize Existing Projects** – Complete Sudheimer Park and pickleball courts first.
2. **Plan for Future Opportunity** – Identify a dog park as a project-in-waiting, ready to implement when land and funding align.
3. **Update CIP** – Place the dog park in the Capital Improvement Plan, but behind currently approved priorities.

## **2) Park Facility Capital Investment Plan**

### **Park Facilities CIP (10-Year Outlook)**

*(Trails not included in this CIP)*

#### **Island View Estates Park**

- The board budget allows for combo play structures (within price point) but reduced height vs. larger options.
- Shane noted: Pine Hill Neighborhood Park (scheduled replacement in 2026) has a larger budget.
  - Possibility: reallocate/repurpose equipment from Pine Hill to help fund/offset Island View Estates upgrades.
- **Next step:** Flagship to review both parks, explore whether existing Pine Hill structures can be reused.

#### **Sudheimer Park**

- Potential funding sources:
  - **Tax abatement**

- **Grant opportunities**

#### **Dog Park**

- Eligible for park dedication funds.
- Discussion around possible phasing and timing (secondary priority after Sudheimer & pickleball courts).

#### **Hollbrook Park**

- Also, a candidate for park dedication fund support.

#### **Key Considerations for the Board**

1. **Prioritization** – Ensure Sudheimer and pickleball remain top priorities before new dog park investment.
2. **Leveraging Replacement Cycles** – Use Pine Hill’s 2026 replacement budget to support Island View Estates.
3. **Funding Strategy** – Maximize use of abatement, grants, and dedication funds to extend resources.

**Phasing Projects** – Explore phased development (esp. for dog park) to accelerate

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

#### **Staff & Activity Updates from Mike and Shane**

- Heavy mowing due to frequent rain.
- Seasonal employees will finish within the next couple of weeks.

#### **Facilities & Equipment**

- **3 AEDs** Donated by Waconia Fire Department Relief Association were installed in:

- City Square Park
- Brooke Peterson Park
- Cedar Point Park

- **The Fields development park** – grading work was completed this summer.
- **New park signs** continue to be installed across various locations.
- **Music in the Street** - season concluded; strong turnout reported.
- **Parks Scavenger Hunt** - participants receive Culver’s cone coin. One family gave written feedback on the pros and cons of the parks they visited.

#### **Other Notes**

- Concerns raised by Peterson: maple trees turning yellow/dying; possible magnesium deficiency. Mike to investigate.

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

No Board Updates

**7. ADJOURN**

Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 7:40PM made by Park Board Member Adamini, seconded by Park Board Member Reiners.

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

September 18, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lacey Shaw, Chair

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