

MINUTES
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING
January 13, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vicky Beckmann, Tim Faver, Kristine Bommersbach, Mike Cronin, Debra Faver, Don Heinonen, Tom Anderson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

COUNCIL & BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: Emelie Rivera

CITY STAFF & OTHERS: Scott Schroeder and Emma Realing

CALL TO ORDER:

Bommersbach called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

AMENDMENTS TO AGENDA:

A motion was made by Tim Faver and seconded by Debra Faver to approve the agenda with a change in the continuity of Parks and Trails in the agenda and minutes headings. The motion was withdrawn after concerns were raised about losing the Recreation portion. The motion was then passed with no amendments.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 14, 2025 MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Cronin and seconded by Beckmann to approve the October 14th, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of the public were present to address the Commission.

Commission Resignations and Appointments:

- Bethany Wesley resigned from the Commission.
- Debra Faver was appointed to the Commission.
- Emelie Rivera was appointed as the new Council representative to the Commission.
- The Commission discussed reviewing the bylaws to ensure transparency and continuity when appointing new members.
- The process for nominating new officers was discussed, including calling names for election and voting.
- The creation of a new Secretary role was discussed, with responsibilities including taking meeting minutes.
- Cronin nominated Kristine as Chair, Tim Faver seconded this motion. Motion passed and Kristine Bommersbach is now Chair of the Parks and Trails Commission.

- Tim Faver nominated Mike Cronin as Vice Chair, Anderson seconded. Motion passed and Mike Cronin is now Vice Chair of the Parks and Trails Commission.
- Debra Faver self-nominated for Secretary. The motion passed and Debra Faver is now Secretary of the Parks and Trails Commission.

Dog Park:

- Schroeder provided an update on the Dog Park at North Country Park.
- Potential funding sources were discussed, including a DNR grant and local donations.
- The Commission discussed the need for a dog park advocate or committee to help move the project forward and assist with securing funding.

Other Parks and Trails Updates:

- Schroeder provided an update on the Cameron Park Trails. Although funding had been received, the project required an archaeological survey due to potential findings.
- It was noted that any artifacts discovered could impact grant funding.
- Schroeder discussed other 2026 CIP items, including new garbage receptacles and tennis court repairs.
- Rivera offered suggestions for collaborating with local partners, specifically artists, to engage the community in upcoming projects.

Recreation Updates:

- Realing provided updates on recreation programming, including after-school activities and the Daddy-Daughter Dance.
- The success of recent events, such as the Holiday Run Series, was discussed.
- It was noted that the Recreation Department employed two part-time staff members to assist with program implementation.
- The Recreation Department was awarded the Region 2 Arts Grant to help fund summer camps for 2026.
- Loon Country Arts' rental agreement at the Historic Carnegie Library began in November, with the organization opening for business in December. This arrangement was reported to be going well.

Commissioner Updates:

- Cronin discussed his involvement in the Holiday Run Series and noted increased participation.
- Anderson suggested using storm slash piles for community bonfires.

Meeting Schedule:

- Schroeder discussed the need to review bylaws and ordinances to determine the meeting frequency moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT:

- The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2026.

A motion to adjourn was made by Beckmann and seconded by Anderson at 5:42p.m. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Emma Realing
Outreach Coordinator