

**MINUTES  
PARKS & TRAILS COMMISSION MEETING**

**February 10, 2026**

**MEMBERS' PRESENT:** Tom Anderson, Kristine Bommersbach, Vicky Beckman,  
Debra Faver

**MEMBER(S) ABSENT:** Tim Faver, Mike Cronin

**COUNCIL and BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:** Emilie Rivera

**CITY STAFF & OTHERS:** Scott Schroeder

**CALL TO ORDER:** Bommersbach called the meeting to order at 4:35

**AMENDMENTS TO February 10, 2026 AGENDA:** None

A motion was made by Beckman and seconded by Faver to approve the February 10, 2026 agenda. The motion was passed.

**APPROVAL OF January 13, 2026 MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Beckman and seconded by Anderson to approve the January 13, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion was passed.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** No members of the public were present

**REVIEW OF PARKS AND TRAILS BYLAWS:**

Meeting Frequency Changed:

The commission agreed to shift from monthly to a minimum of four meetings per year, skipping summer months to respect commission member availability and balancing efficiency with flexibility.

Bommersbach indicated that the option to convene special sessions would remain available.

Schroeder indicated this reduces unnecessary meetings, allowing more focused, substantive discussions.

Anderson stated that remote attendance is allowed.

Rivera commented that special meetings would require a notice of at least three days in advance.

Schroeder noted he would provide updates to commission members whenever necessary, so everyone stays aware of current park and trail developments. Schroeder clarified that an annual meeting will still be required.

#### Bylaws Simplified and Revised:

Faver redlined the proposed changes to the entire document, restating content to simplify and clarify verbiage. Schroeder will email the redlined version to the commission members to discuss at the March commission meeting.

#### Clarify Quorum Requirement:

Rivera addressed quorum numbers. Bommersbach noted that a meeting can proceed if quorum is met at the start, even if members leave before adjournment.

#### Input on Candidate Appointments:

Previously, the mayor received commission applications and recommended candidates to the city council without commission review. Rivera noted the city charter allows the mayor to select candidates for council approval, but suggested commission members should see applications simultaneously with the mayor to offer input, enhancing transparency and cohesion.

#### Remove Order-of-Business Language and Specific Meeting Locations:

Meetings can now take place in parks or other venues, with no requirement to hold them publicly or publish the address due to legislative changes.

### **OTHER PARKS AND TRAILS UPDATES:**

#### New Tree Initiatives Presented by Schroeder:

Application for a DNR grant has been filed. If granted, 186 trees will be planted sporadically throughout the city. The grant will include removing stumps and watering the newly planted trees.

Great River Greening has committed to planting 400 trees in parks and city boulevards over a two-year period, commencing the summer of 2026. They will also contract watering of the trees. The city will plant 50 of these trees. The trees are an approved tree list that are native to the area and a diverse selection of trees. The city's arborist will choose where they will be planted.

Rivera added that Let's Plant Trees, with the city's help, will host a May event giving 10,000 tree seedlings to city residents. Each recipient may receive up to 70 tree seedlings.

### Lake Boulevard Trail:

Illegal activity persists along the Lake Boulevard trail. Schroeder posted a sign near the stone steps and is considering park hours signage, which would need council approval for enforcement. The parks department is working to improve maintenance, but the city must follow DNR regulations on what can be removed. While the DNR oversees the shoreline, the city maintains the area.

### Maintenance Priorities:

Schroeder communicated he has created a list of all items that need to be maintained within the city parks and trails and will bring to the April meeting. He will present 10-15 prioritized capital improvement projects, focusing on safety and urgent repairs.

Rivera mentioned the skate park needs maintaining and has become a safety issue. Schroeder agreed that it has been overlooked.

Rivera asked Schroeder to address the speed at which the operators maintain the trails. Some private residential areas are being impacted by snow and ice debris from the trails.

**RECREATION UPDATES:** None

### **COMMISSIONER UPDATES:**

Bommersbach stated the county is participating in an annual wellness expo for county employees in June. She will be increasing public outreach and communication. The Park and Trails Commission will participate in this activity. Commission members with potential vendor contacts are encouraged to get in touch. The expo is not open to the public.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Faver and seconded by Beckman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was passed.

**Respectfully submitted,**

Debra Faver  
Commission Secretary