

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

Thursday, April 17, 2025; 4:30 PM

City Hall | 226 West 4th Street | Council Chambers

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - 03.20.2025 Meeting Minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Old Business
 - A. PAB By-Laws: Postponed
- V. New Business
 - A. Parks Operations Update: Billy Fisher
- VI. Staff Reports
 - A. Director's Report
 - B. Staff Report
 - C. Riverfront Improvement Commission Report
- VII. Advisory Time/Suggestions for Future Agenda Items
- VIII. Next Meeting Date and Location
 - A. May 15, 2025 at 4:30pm City Hall Council Chambers
- IX. Adjournment



**Parks and Recreation Advisory
March 20, 2025
Meeting Minutes**

Board Members Present: Coiner, Hu, Kefauver, Meyer, Peterson, Powell, Powers, and Shareef

Staff Present: Chad Dyson, Becca Niles, Jessica Rhoads, Theresa Hauman

Location: Council Chambers, City Hall 226 W 4th Street

Meeting Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obExo4c0y9E>

Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the January 2025 meeting minutes. Motion Passes 6-0

Public with Comment:

- None

Old Business:

- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Bylaws: Postponed

New Business:

- Emeis Clubhouse Update: Chad Dyson

Staff Report:

- See Written Staff Report
- Director Report-Verbal
- RIC Report- Verbal

Park Advisory Board Time: See Video

Adjournment: 5:13 pm Motion to adjourn. Motion Passes 6-0

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation
Contact Info: Chad Dyson | 563-328-7275

Action / Date
4/17/2025

Subject:
PAB By-Laws: Postponed

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:
None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation
Contact Info: Chad Dyson | 563-328-7275

Action / Date
4/17/2025

Subject:
Parks Operations Update: Billy Fisher

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:
None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

Action / Date

4/17/2025

Subject:

Director's Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

Action / Date

4/17/2025

Subject:

Staff Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

1. 04.2025 Staff Report

Park and Recreation Advisory Board

April 2025

Staff Report

Notable updates from Staff

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

AmeriCorps

- The Youth Corps Coordinator (part time) position has opened. This is a new position that will support recruitment and implementation of the redeveloped Youth Corps Summer Program for participants aged 17 to 21. This will serve as a development opportunity for those not quite ready to serve independently at an AmeriCorps site.
- Becca Niles and Jordan Raso attended the America's Service Commission's National Service Training April 7-10. This annual conference is for AmeriCorps service programs and focuses on grant, member, and site management highlighting national grant updates/changes, new trends, techniques, resources, and software. It is also an opportunity to network with other program staff and share ideas and processes.

Customer Service & Outreach

- Kyrra Hettlage, Front Desk Clerk, started on March 31. She has completed her onboarding and training and will begin taking shifts solo.
- Alyssa Walsh (formerly Steward), Senior Clerk, will be moving on. Her last day is April 25.
- The Senior Clerk (full time) position is currently open and accepting applications. There is a testing component and a civil service list that will be certified. The goal is to have a list for the May Civil Service meeting. With onboarding a new Senior Clerk in early June.

Business Functions

- Hiring season continues
 - Applications are only slightly behind this time last year.
 - Between January 3-April 15 the department has received 312 applications for summer employment.
 - This time last year during the same period, the department had received 300 applications.

PARK OPERATIONS

Park Projects

- Staff are working on reconnecting water and plumbing the in parks. All water meters have been installed.
- Playground mulching is ongoing. The playgrounds at Tyler Park, Annie Wittenmyer, Junge Park, Vander Veer Botanical Park, Freight House Farmer's Market, Monroe Park, Harrington Park, Sunderbruch Park, Emeis Park, North Gayman Park, Davenport Soccer Complex, and Credit Island Park have all been completed. The remaining parks have mulch and will require touch ups over the summer.

Horticulture

- Horticulture staff are preparing for summer with 250 flats of plants grown for disbursement throughout Vander Veer Botanical Park.
 - The Friends of Vander Veer have also grown and additional 250 flats for the Annual Plant Sale.
- Staff planted 26,850 bulbs that are now blooming.
- 6,175 visitors have toured the Conservatory since January

General Operations & Maintenance

- The Safety and Training Office has been hosting safety training and orientation for new and returning employees.
 - Onboarding nearly 100 staff members for the department.
- In preparation for spring and summer leagues field lime, chalk, and materials have been provided to the little leagues for the start of their season.

RECREATION

Community Events & Aquatics

- Staff have been able to hire and onboard 60 aquatic team staff so far. Over half of the lifeguard team are returners.
- Staff received many wonderful compliments regarding the Shamrock Scavenger Hunt. For example:
 - *"Not that you need to know but I just want you to share this is perfect timing for a situation in our life right now. My 7-year-old granddaughter is afraid to go anywhere in the car and this has become such a fun game. She hasn't thought twice about getting in the car and going to one park a day. I give her a map and she tells me how to get to the park. We run and play... even in the rain. She is so excited she seems to be so relaxed in the car. Thank you!!"*
- The Davenport Trails Committee is working with Davenport Community Schools to establish the 1st Walk, Bike, & Roll to School Day Wednesday May 7.

Adaptive & Inclusive

- Special Olympic swimmers had a successful state competition in Newton on March 29. Participants earned medals, two of which were gold and are applying to be selected for the national team to represent Iowa in the 2026 USA games in Minnesota.
- Special Olympic track season began on March 18. There are 76 athletes competing in track and field activities. The athletes competed in the East Area Games on April 12. Scott County Adults team was the largest delegation to attend the games.
 - Of the 73 athletes that competed, 66 moved on to the State Games on May 22.
- Special Olympic Bocce began on April 9 and Special Olympics Tennis begins April 19, both in preparation for the State Games.

Youth & Adult Sports

- DPR's Sports Program received the *Million Coaches Challenge, How to Coach Kids* grant from National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA). The training program reviews the fundamentals of coaching kids and will be implemented with the department's volunteer youth sports coaches, Special Olympics, and staff that interact with children.
- Youth Soccer kicked off April 12 with 864 kids from pre-k to 8th grade in the league (up from last year).
 - Last year, the Spring Youth Soccer program had approximately 825 participants.
- Adult Softball begins April 27, with some teams already full.
- Adult Soccer leagues begin early May.
- Currently, 40 companies have registered for the 2025 Quad Cities Corporate Games competition this summer.
- Securing a track for the free track and field program in partnership with Cornbelt Running Club has been difficult this spring. Staff have an upcoming meeting with the school district to resolve the scheduling issues.

Davenport Junior Theatre Performing Arts

- Over 1200 family, friends, and participants attended the performances for the theatre programs.
- Currently 4 of the Performing Arts Camps are full. Dance camp and Mini Camp are 50% full.
- The survey from the theatre program showcases have been most positive.

- The transition to the Davenport Learning Center is moving along. Staff now have keys and will start cleaning storage areas later this month.

The River's Edge

- The second sheet of ice has been removed.
- Staff are meeting with partner groups to look for ideas to generate additional facility revenue.

GOLF OPERATIONS

General Golf Course Updates

- All golf courses are now fully open for the 2025 season.
- Golf Operations have retained a large number of employees returning from last season. Most new hires needed at Emeis grounds maintenance.
- Golf Operations are now close to full mowing routines with returning staff coming on as the workload increases.
- Golf Staff busy finishing up projects that were cut-off by wet Fall weather conditions,

Duck Creek Golf Course

- No updates reported

Emeis Golf Course

- Emeis Golf Course has had one golf cart stolen this early season. Police patrols and security measures are being purchased, in order to resolve as soon as possible.

Red Hawk Golf and Learning Center

- No updates reported

COMMUNICATION UPDATES

- Community Events
 - Bunny Skate | Saturday, 4/19 | The River's Edge
 - Doggie Egg Hunt | Saturday, 4/26 | Centennial Dog Park
 - Kites on the River | Sunday, 4/27 | Centennial Park
 - Movie in the Park | Friday, 5/9 | Sunderbruch Park (drive in style)
 - Tails & Trails Walk | Sunday, 5/17 | Centennial Dog Park & Trails
 - Giddy-up Bike & Hike | Sunday, 5/18 | Davenport Recreation Trails
 - Pawp-Up Pup Parks | Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5/22-8/7 | Alternating between Duck Creek Park and Prairie Heights Park

- Community Outreach Events
Outreach opportunities for staff to be on hand to give out program and hiring information, play games with booth visitors, and hand out prizes for attendees.
 - QC Chamber Student Success | Tuesday, 4/29
- Notable Dates
 - Good Friday Closures 4/18
 - Vander Veer Conservatory, Fairmount Community Center (during the day) and Parks and Recreation Administrative Office will be closed.
 - The River's Edge will be open as normal.
 - Easter Sunday Closures 4/20 (*Confirmed*)
 - Vander Veer Conservatory, The River's Edge will be closed.
 - Davenport Parks and Recreation hosting the Davenport U Citizens Academy participants Monday, 5/19.
 - Davenport Junior Theatre Mainstage Show: Peter Pan
 - Saturday 4/26 and 5/3 at 1pm and 4pm
 - Sunday 4/27 and 5/4 at 3pm

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

Action / Date

4/17/2025

Subject:

Riverfront Improvement Commission Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None