

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

Thursday, August 21, 2025; 12:00 AM

City Hall | 226 West 4th Street | Council Chambers

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - 05.2025 Meeting Minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
  - A. Administrative Services Updates
  - B. FY27 Park Development Presentation
  - C. Park Advisory Board Nominations:
    - i. Chair
    - ii. Vice Chair
    - iii. Secretary
    - iv. Riverfront Improvement Commission Liaison
- VI. Staff Reports
  - A. Director's Report
  - B. Staff Report
  - C. Riverfront Improvement Commission Report
    - August 2025 Staff Report
- VII. Advisory Time/Suggestions for Future Agenda Items
- VIII. Next Meeting Date and Location
  - A. September 18, 2025 4:30pm in City Hall Council Chambers
- IX. Adjournment





**Parks and Recreation Advisory  
July 17, 2025  
Meeting Minutes**

Board Members Present: Bartling, Coiner, Dasso, Kefauver, Peterson, Powell, Powers, Schertz, Shareef  
Staff Present: Chad Dyson, Becca Niles, Jessica Rhoads, Theresa Hauman, Troy Evans and William Fisher  
Location: Council Chambers, City Hall 226 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Meeting Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7i3jllAAEc>

Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the May 2025 meeting minutes presented by Kefauver, seconded by Coiner. Motion Passes 8-0

Public with Comment:

- None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Staff Report:

- See written staff report
- Director Report-Verbal
- RIC Report- Verbal

Park Advisory Board Time: None

Adjournment: 4:39 pm Motion to adjourn by Powers, seconded by Powell. Motion Passes 8-0

City of Davenport

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

**Action / Date**  
**8/21/2025**

Subject:  
Administrative Services Updates

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:  
None

City of Davenport

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

**Action / Date**  
**8/21/2025**

Subject:  
FY27 Park Development Presentation

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:  
None

City of Davenport

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

**Action / Date**  
**8/21/2025**

Subject:

Park Advisory Board Nominations:

- i. Chair
- ii. Vice Chair
- iii. Secretary
- iv. Riverfront Improvement Commission Liaison

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

**Action / Date**

**8/21/2025**

Subject:

Director's Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

**Action / Date**

**8/21/2025**

Subject:

Staff Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

**Action / Date**

**8/21/2025**

Subject:

Riverfront Improvement Commission Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

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

**Action / Date**  
**8/21/2025**

Subject:  
August 2025 Staff Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

1. 08.2025 Staff Report

Park and Recreation Advisory Board  
August 2025  
Staff Report

Notable updates from Staff

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

AmeriCorps

- Grant year 24-25 was terminated April 2025. But it was unexpectedly received restored along with all terminated programs in late July. This allowed staff to credit service hours to the members affected by the termination, so they were able to receive a larger portion of their education award.
- On July 22, 2025 staff were notified that Davenport's continuance grant was approved for the 25-26 grant year; this is the final year of the three-year grant cycle. The grant agreement was approved at the August 13 City Council meeting. Recruitment will begin in earnest at the beginning of September.

Customer Service & Outreach

- A new recreation magazine has been published. This magazine is an overview of the industry, Davenport Parks and Recreation and highlights/educates about the importance of parks, recreational programs and community events.

Business Functions

- Administrative staff have been developing and documenting procedures to better support the financial, hiring and communication processes of the department in collaboration with other city departments to ensure compliance, better consistency, and following of best practices.
  - To date, staff have documented hiring, payroll and purchasing.
- Administrative staff will be working with the department's Safety and Training Supervisor to develop a department-wide training plan and schedule.

## **PARK OPERATIONS**

### Park Projects

- Operations focused on routine maintenance this month with pools, storm cleanup, and grounds maintenance.

### Horticulture

- The conservatory has hosted over 24,000 visitors since the beginning of the year.
- Staff have been busy removing weeds, mulching, and tending to the flowers around the city.
- The conservatory was treated for insects and fungal diseases as a preventative measure.
- Staff were busy clearing debris from the Vander Veer Botanical Park from summer storms and routine tree trimming.

### General Operations & Maintenance

- Staff were busy clearing debris from a tornado that ran through Emeis Park.
- Staff replaced all basketball nets in city parks.
- Staff were busy cleaning the recreational trails after multiple rain events last month.
- Staff completed another successful season of support to Party in the Park special events.
- Staff remain busy assessing and repairing vandalism.
- Staff were busy mulching the Credit Island Park playground, Fejervary Learning Center and playground, and Gayman Park.

## **RECREATION**

### Events & Aquatics

- Learn to Swim has concluded and hosted 489 total students in five sessions over an eleven-week period. Class sizes remained small, 4-7 per class, depending on the level to maximize teacher instruction and student learning.
- Staff were very happy with the 29 children under 5 along with their parents totaling 53 patrons who attended the Itty-Bitty Beach Party (a new event this year). Many of the parents requested the event return next year.
- Puppy Cool Down had approximately 25 dogs having a wonderful time with the water activities, as well as local vendors.
- Within the first hour of the Back to School Bash at Fejervary Learning Center, 120 local students received school supplies. This is always a

popular event featuring local community resources including Davenport Parks and Recreation, Davenport Public Library, Cancer Support Community Iowa & Illinois at Gilda's Club, Wellpoint, Horizon Science Academy Davenport, Midwest Writing Center, Community Action of Eastern Iowa, Scott County Health Department, and Community Health Care, Inc.

#### Adaptive & Inclusive

- AdventureCamp ended on August 8. The participants and staff had a great summer.
  - With the conveyance of the Annie Wittenmyer Complex, camp will need to be relocated next summer.
- Special Olympic Softball wrapped up its season. The developmental team took 4<sup>th</sup> and the Division 1 team took 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
- Special Olympic Flag Football and Volleyball started early August. Both sports teams will practice for 8 weeks and then compete in the state games on September 25 & 26 in West Des Moines.
- Unified Golf and Bocce Ball will take place at Red Hawk Golf and Learning Center on September 11.
  - Reach out to Sherrie Fischer regarding any interest in volunteering for the competition.

#### Youth & Adult Sports

- There are 802 kids signed up for fall youth soccer.
- Adult fall leagues are open for registering and the women's volleyball league filled the first week.

#### Davenport Junior Theatre Performing Arts

- Staff offered six camps which included 35 plays, 15 musical numbers, 96 crafts, and 12 dances. All in all, performing arts staff empowered 321 students to be brave, be bold and have fun.
- The new Ballet and Books in the Park program served over 40 students at Vander Veer Botanical Park.
- Staff have almost completely moved out of Annie Wittenmyer cottages.

#### The River's Edge

- Staff are working on filling ice resurfacers driver positions, a Facility Coordinator position, but have filled all concession and skate guard positions. The goal is to be fully staffed for the coming season.
- Staff have started the second sheet installation process, with the goal of it being fully operational by September 1.

- The River's Edge is hosting an US Ice Rink Association "Ice making and painting technologies" training class at the end of August for department staff.
- Learn to Skate finished the fiscal year with 674 students; this was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of students ever for the program under the City of Davenport (falling short by only two participants dating back to 2017).

## **GOLF OPERATIONS**

### General Golf Course Updates

- Golf facilities will be transitioning to a new credit card processing company at the end of August. This transition will provide savings in credit card fees.
- Golf staff has been battling rainy wet and extreme hot working conditions – Fall is more than welcome.

### Duck Creek Golf Course

- Golf Staff plan to finish some minor project areas and begin overseeding fairways and tees after an extremely hot and wet July-August.
- The contractor will be sealing and repainting the parking lot.

### Emeis Golf Course

- Emeis has received many heavy rain events this summer requiring delayed and adjusted mowing routines.
  - Staff have done an outstanding job keeping the turf in playable conditions.
- The contractor will be repaving the golf maintenance drive-off Wisconsin Avenue.

### Red Hawk Golf and Learning Center

- Golf preparing concepts and project costs for a new Red Hawk business sign to replace the current old sign installed in 2000's

## **COMMUNICATION UPDATES**

### Community Events

- City of Davenport River Bandits Night | Friday, 8/22 | Modern Woodmen Park
- Back to School Skate | Saturday, 8/23 | The River's Edge
- Big 9 Concert- Steely Dane w/ QC Rock Academy | Saturday, 8/30 | Credit Island Park
- Picnic in the Park | Friday, 9/5 | Vander Veer Botanical Park
- Dogs Day in the Park | Saturday, 9/6 | Centennial Dog Park
- Harvest Festival | Saturday, 9/13 | Fejervary Learning Center

### 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.

- None in the coming month

### Notable Dates

- Labor Day 9/1 Closures
  - Davenport Parks and Recreation Administrative Offices
  - Vander Veer Conservatory
  - The River's Edge
  - Roosevelt Community Center
  - Fairmount Community Center