

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

Thursday, November 20, 2025; 4:30 PM

City Hall | 226 West 4th Street | Council Chambers

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - 10.18.2025 Meeting Minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
  - A. Staff Introduction: Ryan Morales, Park Operations
- VI. Staff Reports
  - A. Director's Report
  - B. Riverfront Improvement Commission Report  
Staff Report
- VII. Advisory Time/Suggestions for Future Agenda Items
- VIII. Next Meeting Date and Location
  - A. December 18, 2025, 4:30pm, City Hall Council Chambers
- IX. Adjournment



**Parks and Recreation Advisory  
September 18, 2025  
Meeting Minutes**

Board Members Present: Kefauver, Meyer, Peterson, Powell, Powers, Schertz, Shareef, and Witenmeyer  
Staff Present: Chad Dyson, Becca Niles, William Fisher, Amy Soliz, Jessica Rhoads and Troy Evans  
Location: Council Chambers, City Hall 226 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Meeting Video:

Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve the September 2025 meeting minutes presented by Powell and seconded by Meyer. Motion Passes 7-0

Public with Comment:

- None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Budget Presentation

Reports:

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

Park Advisory Board Time: See Video

Adjournment: 5:40 pm Motion to adjourn presented by Powers and seconded by Kefauver. Motion Passes 7-0

City of Davenport

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

**Action / Date**  
**11/20/2025**

Subject:  
Staff Introduction: Ryan Morales, Park Operations

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:  
None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

**Action / Date**

**11/20/2025**

Subject:

Director's Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

**Action / Date**

**11/20/2025**

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**  
**11/20/2025**

Subject:  
Staff Report

Recommendation:  
Review Report

Background:

Attachments:

1. 11.2025 Staff Report

Park and Recreation Advisory Board  
November 2025  
Staff Report

Notable updates from Staff

**ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

AmeriCorps

- Program staff participated in two career fairs this month, Meet the Quad Cities and the Quad Cities Fall Success Fair, to promote upcoming opportunities and build a pool of interested candidates.
- Last month, program staff facilitated a comprehensive training with site supervisors that covered key AmeriCorps principles and best practices for supporting and mentoring members throughout their service.
- Members from the Fall cohort are actively contributing to Davenport Parks and Recreation through key service roles. Park Ambassador members are out in parks and along trail systems, fostering positive community engagement and coordinating pop-up events and activities to encourage use of these spaces. In addition, Volunteer Engagement members are collaborating with recreation staff to strengthen volunteer recruitment and engagement for community events, with a service goal of expanding volunteer participation and supporting a reliable volunteer base for recreation programming.

**PARK OPERATIONS**

Park Projects

- Emeis Park Playground has been completed and a grand opening event was held November 7th.
- The West Loop project extending the Duck Creek Recreational Trail from Central Park Ave to Wisconsin Ave has been completed.
- Staff assisted with the hanging of the holiday light display at Fejervary Park

Horticulture

- Staff hung decorative lights along the allée and erected the snowflakes in the rose garden.
- Staff was busy planting 34,450 tulip and daffodil bulbs throughout the park system.

- With the completion of the chrysanthemum show, staff has been busy removing the mums, and rearranging the conservatory for the winter poinsettia display.

### General Operations & Maintenance

- Staff removed 16 older wooden picnic tables from various locations around the park system and replaced them with new, more durable rubber coated tables.
- Staff replaced 8 grills in various shelter locations. The old grills had deteriorated to the point of not holding charcoal.
- Staff installed new trash receptacles at the Emeis Park playground
- With the summer season over, our seasonal staff's last day was October 31<sup>st</sup>. Operations is now down to our winter staffing level. 5 full-time maintenance, 2 full-time horticulture, and 2 part-time grounds employees, and a part-time playground inspector.
- Our safety team has been busy preparing our staff for snow events. All of our winter staff have been through classroom training, as well as a snowplow obstacle course training.
- Staff have been busy mulching leaves, and trimming trees around parks.
- Staff has continued to be proactive with securing our amenities. Security fencing was installed around the HVAC units at the Duck Creek Lodge
- Staff has been busy working with the Administration Division implementing our new park ambassador program through AmeriCorps.

## **RECREATION**

### Events & Aquatics

- Staff have been working hard to finish up the Fejervary Holiday Lights. There have been some obstacles but the department has worked together to get it ready by the VIP event Tues Nov 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.
- Amanda Randerson, Events, Education, and Aquatics Supervisor, has proudly been approved to represent our department and community on the IRPA Board of Directors.

### Adaptive & Inclusive

- Special Olympics 5v5 basketball runs at the North Y on Tuesday and Thursday, 3v3 runs at St Marks on Tuesday & Thursday and Basketball Skills runs at St Mark's on Thursday. Snow Shoeing runs at Roosevelt on Monday nights.
- Staff held a meeting with Night to Shine and volunteer descriptions are being set and people will be able to register to volunteer soon.

- Special Olympic SCA Thunder has 39 bowlers competing in the state competition in Cedar Rapids on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Staff have been working with their team to do Special Olympic fundraising for supplies and high transportation costs. Pizza Ranch was a successful and wonderful teambuilding experience for the SCA Thunder Team and over \$300 was raised at the event.
- Mr. Inclusive – the Bee Adaptive & Inclusive Club hosted a fundraiser for SCA Thunder Team on Friday (Nov 14). Tickets for this Variety show Pageant were \$15/person. We will report next month how much was raised.
- There will be a Portillo's fundraising night on Dec 17<sup>th</sup> and 20% of the sales will go to SCA, please keep an eye out for more information.

#### Youth & Adult Sports

- Staff have been taking registration for youth basketball, and already have over 150 registrations. Registration is open until December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- There are 50 adult volleyball teams. This is over the 42 we had last year, and is by far the most we have ever had. Staff was able to work with the district to get access to Smart and Williams to hold the department leagues.

#### Davenport Junior Theatre Performing Arts

- The winter session currently has 100 students registered. We expect class registrations to grow after Thanksgiving when we have tech rehearsals to talk to the parents in person about registration.
- Classes at Kimberly Campus are going well, we are in week 10 of classes, students have gotten props, costumes, and sets.
- There are 25 students signed up for our first workshop at the Bettendorf Family Museum which is exciting.
- Staff have opened registration for Spring Break Camp.
- The fire alarms have been changed on the Davenport School District side of the building so the fire alarm should not be as much of an issue.

#### The River's Edge

- Ice sports season is officially underway.
- The staffing at River's Edge is 95% full, there is just one more coordinator position to fill.
- Staff have finished revising birthday party packages and will be rolling them out to the public soon.

### **GOLF OPERATIONS**

### General Golf Course Updates

- Golf courses enjoying a mild Fall with heavy play at Duck Creek and Emeis on the warm days.
- Golf course crews are reduced but still needed to process the many leaves for seasonal cleanup.

### Duck Creek Golf Course

- Duck Creek Golf will remain Open for play on dry days over 50 degrees into December if weather permits.

### Emeis Golf Course

- Emeis Golf Course will Close the 2025 season Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Red Hawk Golf and Learning Center

- Red Hawk Golf was Closed for the 2025 season on Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>

## **COMMUNICATION UPDATES**

### Community Events

- Fejervary Holiday Lights – VIP Preview | Tuesday, November 25 | 7PM | Fejervary Learning Center
- Santa Paws Walk | Saturday, December 13 | Credit Island Park
- Swiftie Skate | Saturday, December 13 | The River's Edge
- Skate with Santa | Saturday, December 20 | The River's Edge
- Noon Year's Eve Glow Skate | Wednesday, December 31 | The River's Edge

### Notable Dates

- Holiday Closure 11/27 – All departments and offices
- Holiday Closure 11/28 – Parks & Recreation Admin Office, Vander Veer Conservatory and all staff spaces
- Holiday Closure 12/24 – Parks & Recreation Admin Office, Park Operations Office, Vander Veer Conservatory
- Holiday Closure 12/25 – All departments and offices

### Vander Veer Conservatory

- Closed for holiday lights set-up | November 10 – 28
- Poinsettia & Lights Display | Saturday, November 29 – Sunday, January 11 (closed Mondays)