

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

Thursday, December 18, 2025; 4:30 PM

City Hall | 226 West 4th Street | Council Chambers

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - November 2025 Meeting Minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
- VI. Reports
 - A. Director's Report
 - B. Staff Report
 - 1. December 2025 Staff Report
 - C. Riverfront Improvement Commission Report
- VII. Advisory Time
- VIII. Next Meeting Date and Location
 - A. January 15, 2026, at 4:30pm in City Hall Council Chambers
- IX. Adjournment



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

Board Members Present: Coiner, Dasso, 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 4th Street

Meeting Video:

Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve October 2025 meeting minutes motioned by Kefauver, 2nd by Wittenmeyer. Motion passes 8-0

Public with Comment:

- None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Staff Introduction- Ryan Morales

Reports:

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

Park Advisory Board Time: See Video

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn presented by Powell 2nd by Coiner. Motion passes 8-0

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

Action / Date

12/18/2025

Subject:

Director's Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

Action / Date

12/18/2025

Subject:

Staff Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

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

Action / Date
12/18/2025

Subject:
December 2025 Staff Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:
1. 12.2025

Park and Recreation Advisory Board
December 2025
Staff Report

Notable updates from Staff

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

AmeriCorps

- Program staff hosted the first of three in-service trainings for members.
- Program staff are waiting for the official AmeriCorps Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) to submit for a new 3-year cycle.
- Jordan Litton, Program Manager, is preparing for next round of member recruitment that will kick off after the new year.

Customer Service & Outreach

- Interviews for the vacant Front Desk Clerk position have concluded. Candidates will be notified of results the week of December 22. The goal is to onboard the new Clerk in January.
- Communications staff are developing the 2026 social media and communications calendar.

Business Functions

- Departmental tasks for the FY27 budget preparation are complete.
 - Council Goal Setting and Budget workshops (open to the public) will be held in Council Chambers on three consecutive Saturdays, 1/24, 1/31 and 2/7 8:30am-1pm.
- Administrative staff are working with the City's HR department to evaluate the Affordable Care Act (ACA) reporting after finding discrepancies during the October reporting period.
- Administrative staff are evaluating the department's travel/training planning and request procedures to ensure better tracking and professional development support for department staff.

PARK OPERATIONS

Park Projects

- Operations staff finalized the holiday light displays at Fejervary Learning Center and Vander Veer Botanical Park.

Horticulture

- Staff was busy transforming the conservatory for the holiday season.
- Horticulture team has been busy with snow removal.
- Horticulture staff has been busy with “spring cleaning” in preparation of consolidating the educational component of our division. The old shop area of the conservatory is in the process of being renovated with a goal of utilizing that space for educational purposes.

General Operations & Maintenance

- Operations staff has been busy clearing snow.

RECREATION

Events & Aquatics

- The Fejervary Holiday Lights VIP Preview night went well and had a great turnout from staff, Councilmembers, PAB members and the display’s partner and volunteers – Modern Woodmen despite a cold front moving through the area bring cold and rain. This wonderful preview event was filled with laughter, dancing, and cheers setting the tone for what is sure to be a spectacular holiday season.
- Staff are collaborating with Bettendorf Parks and Recreation for the Sweetheart Dance for the third year in a row. This healthy partnership has allowed the event to reach sell-out crowds, maintain a lower cost for participants despite rising costs, and acquire new sponsors each year.
- Letters to Santa program has been well received with several letters coming in at all 3 mailbox locations. Some submissions are missing addresses information, but staff are attempting to collect that information through social media and on site at the mailbox they submitted letters to.

Adaptive & Inclusive

- Special Olympics currently has 4 – 3v3 Basketball teams, 1 5v5 team, and 20 Basketball Skills Players practicing for the East Area Games Regional Basketball and Skills Competition on 1/24/2026.
- Special Olympics has 18 snowshoers and 5 Alpine skiers practicing for the Iowa Winter Games on 1/12 - 1/14/2026 in Dubuque.
- Staff have been working hard to raise money for the Scott County Special Olympic athletes’ transportation to state games. The following has been done or planned: mailed out donation letters to over 200 area businesses.

- A fundraiser night was hosted at Portillo's on 12/17, 5-8pm (20% of the sales for anyone mentioning SCA was donated)
- Staff will have a Spirit Night at the 53rd Street Chick-Fil-A on 1/7/26, 4-7pm (15% of sales with a digital initiation or a mention of Spirit Night will be donated).
- Working on sending out donation requests to service clubs asking if the Special Olympics team can host a presentation about the athletes.
- There will be a fun, new, free music class in collaboration with Common Chord for 8-14 year olds at Roosevelt Community Center, Tuesdays 4:30-5:15pm beginning 1/6/2026.

Youth & Adult Sports

- Staff are taking registrations for youth basketball; there are already over 260 participants registered.
- Spring soccer registration opened 12/1 and already has over 20 registrations.

Davenport Junior Theatre Performing Arts

- Winter registration has over 150 students with several weeks to go before the next session.
- Most surveys staff received after the first session at the new location concluded have been positive.
- Parking at the theatre, especially in the winter since the pool has many stairs to climb, continues to be an issue.

The River's Edge

- Swifitie Skate was on Saturday, 12/13 for the second year and had over 60 attendees.
- There are more themed special public skates (see community events section) and extra public family skates (see below) planned for the holiday break.
 - December 19 | 3-5PM
 - December 20 | 9:15-11:15AM
 - December 24 | 3-5PM
 - December 26 | 9-11AM & 3-5PM
 - December 27 | 9:15-11:15AM
 - December 29 | 3-5PM
 - December 30 | 3-5PM
 - January 1 | 9-11AM | 3-5PM | 7-9PM

GOLF OPERATIONS

General Golf Course Updates

- All golf courses closed in late November, after having several good-weather days leading up to Thanksgiving Week.
- Duck Creek Golf Proshop is open most days until Christmas holiday, where staff sell many gift certificates, and season passes.

Duck Creek Golf Course

- Snow cover has delayed cart path installation work on #9 and #12; that will resume Spring 2026.

Emeis Golf Course

- Winter golf staff are preparing items for winter maintenance, clearing tree debris, and assisting Park Operations Division with snow removal.

Red Hawk Golf and Learning Center

- Work will begin on replacing the Red Hawk business sign.

COMMUNICATION UPDATES

Community Events

- Fejervary Holiday Lights | Everyday, 11/29 – 1/4 | Fejervary Learning Center
- Poinsettia & Lights Display | Everyday (except Monday), 11/29 – 1/1
 - Extended Saturday Hours: 12/20 Conservatory open 10am-7pm
- Skate with Santa | Saturday, 12/20 | 2pm-4pm | The River's Edge
- Noon Year's Eve Glow Skate | Wednesday, 12/31 | 11am-1pm | The River's Edge

Notable Dates

- Holiday Closure 12/24
 - Parks & Recreation Administrative Office, Park Operations Office, Fairmount Community Center
 - Closing early - Vander Veer Conservatory 10am-2pm
 - Closing early - The River's Edge 5pm
- Holiday Closure 12/25
 - All departments and offices
- Holiday Early Closures 12/31
 - The River's Edge 5pm
- Holiday Closures 1/1
 - All departments and offices except The River's Edge

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

Action / Date

12/18/2025

Subject:

Riverfront Improvement Commission Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None