

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

CITY OF DAVENPORT, IOWA

Thursday, January 15, 2026; 4:30 PM

City Hall | 226 West 4th Street | Council Chambers

- I. Roll Call
- II. Approval of Minutes
 - December 2025 Meeting Minutes
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Old Business
- V. New Business
 - A. Accreditation Presentation
- VI. Reports
 - A. Director's Report
 - B. Staff Reports
 - 1. January 2026 Staff Report
 - C. Riverfront Improvement Commission Report
- VII. Advisory Time/Suggestions for Future Agenda Items
- VIII. Next Meeting Date and Location
 - A. February 19, 2026 at 4:30 pm in City Hall Council Chambers
- IX. Adjournment



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

Board Members Present: Coiner, 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: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AAoE2bL3UcM>

Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve November 2025 meeting minutes motioned by Meyer, 2nd by Coiner. Motion passes 7-0

Public with Comment:

- None

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Reports:

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

Park Advisory Board Time: See Video

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn presented by Witenmeyer 2nd by Coiner. Motion passes 7-0

City of Davenport

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

Action / Date
1/15/2026

Subject:
Accreditation Presentation

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:
None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

Action / Date

1/15/2026

Subject:

Director's Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

Action / Date

1/15/2026

Subject:

Staff Reports

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None

City of Davenport

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

Action / Date
1/15/2026

Subject:
January 2026 Staff Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

1. 01.2026 Staff Report

Park and Recreation Advisory Board
January 2026
Staff Report

Notable updates from Staff

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

AmeriCorps

- The Program Supervisor is opening spring positions recruitment.
- The program is about 30% into the program year with 11 of the 14 positions still filled. There are three positions that had members who exited early. Staff will be converting those positions for the spring.

Customer Service & Outreach

- Two new Front Desk Clerks joined the team on January 5. They will train during January by shadowing tenured Clerks.
- The start of the year brings notifications about community events. Staff are registering for these for hiring and program promotion.

Business Functions

- There are new CAPRA standards for the 2027 reaccreditation. Staff are reviewing “evidence” documents as part of the annual accreditation process and preparing documents for new standards.
- A team will be working with a consultant to evaluate the full park system (parks, facilities, amenities) for development of an ADA Transition Plan. This will provide the department with guidance on future updates and needed amenities.

PARK OPERATIONS

Park Projects

- Power outlets were added to the restrooms at Centennial Park, Marquette Park, Slattery Park, and Lower Lindsay for the installation of drink vending machines.

Horticulture

- Staff have been busy preparing for the Poinsettia giveaway January 17-18.
- Staff hosted over 3,800 guests for the Holiday Light and Poinsettia Show in the Conservatory between 11/29-1/11.

- Staff are cutting and covering the rose garden to protect them from the elements.
- Staff are planning for the summer theme at Vander Veer Botanical Park. This year's theme is "Out of this World" and will feature aliens, UFOs and other out of this world type experiences including flowers with cosmic ties like Zinnias; the first flower grown in outer space.

General Operations & Maintenance

- Staff are creating jumpers - water meter bypass - at various locations at the request of Iowa American Water. These selected locations will move to a minimum monthly fee rather than metered billing due to lower usage than other locations. Most of these locations are stand-alone drinking fountains along the recreational trails.
- Staff are repairing or coordinating the repair of furnaces/boilers at the 29th Street office, Credit Island Lodge, and Roosevelt Community Center.
- Staff are repairing swing hangers at the playgrounds. These are replaced annually from general wear and tear.
- Staff are removing graffiti from multiple playgrounds and chasing vandalism along the riverfront park system; specifically, LeClaire Park, City Cemetery, and Credit Island Park.
- Staff are focused on annual safety training and the training of two new part-time playground inspectors.

RECREATION

Events & Aquatics

- Staff received several glowing reviews from visitors both in-person and online regarding the Fejervary Holiday Light Show this year. Now that it is over we can share the songs this year were: Lindsey Stirling – Carol of the Bells, Burl Ives – Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, and Jo Feliciano – Feliz Navidad.
- The Letters to the North Pole were very well received again this year. Staff had many parents send letters thanking us for getting in the holiday spirit and choosing to send the celebrations out to their children.
 - The program once again reached 10 different cities in 3 different states. Unfortunately, we missed two children's letters because they came in after the deadline to mail out. By the time they were here to receive, they would not have made it back out in time for the big holiday. Staff are looking at the possibility of an online letter that children may be able to submit next year.

- Applications are now open for Aquatics staff and Learn-to-Skate instructors.

Adaptive & Inclusive

- SCA Thunder Special Olympics Snowshoe practice continues until the State Winter Games, held in Dubuque on January 12-14. The team will have 23 athletes competing in Snowshoe or Alpine Skiing over the 3-day competition.
- Basketball Practice continues. Staff will have 1 competitive 5v5 coed team, 1 competitive 3v3 team, 2 developmental 3v3 teams, and 16 Basketball Skills players competing at the East Area Basketball Competition on January 24 at North Scott. Any team or player receiving 1st place/blue ribbon will advance on to the state competition in Iowa City on March 16.
- Special Olympics Swimming will run from 3:30-4:30pm on Sundays, 1/18-2/22 at the North YMCA. The East Swim Area Competition will be held on Saturday, February 28 in Muscatine. Any athlete receiving a 1st Place/Blue Ribbon will advance on to the State Competition in May.
- Special Olympics Cheer will begin at 4pm on January 26 at Roosevelt Community Center and will continue until the state competition on March 16 in Iowa City.
- Fundraising for Special Olympics travel expenses continues with staff developing a speaking tour at local service clubs. Staff are also working with St. Ambrose to schedule the Basketball Fundraiser for March or April.

Youth & Adult Sports

- There are 317 basketball registrants, an improvement over last year, including running a 4th-5th grade league this year, that did not run last year.
- Spring soccer registration is open; the registration deadline is February 28.
- Staff are a couple of months into the volleyball season with 50 teams, 10 more than we have ever had.

Davenport Junior Theatre Performing Arts

- Collage Theatre will begin late January at the new program facility. Participants are excited to be able to have the program at a much more accessible site.
- Dance and theatre surveys after the fall session were mostly positive with just a few mentioning the location and other tenants of the building. Of those few, a couple mentioned the sterile feel of the building, so staff spent much of the holiday break painting classrooms and putting up pictures and posters.
- Outreach programming staff are in full swing, doing many workshops, both in Davenport and in the larger Quad Cities areas.

The River's Edge

- The themed and holiday public skates this year have been incredible! The Noon Year's Eve Glow Skate brought in over 240 skaters with little set up by staff. This will continue into this year at some regular intervals.

GOLF OPERATIONS

- Courses Closed

COMMUNICATION UPDATES

Community Events

- Sweetheart Dance | Friday, 2/13 | MVFG – Starlite Ballroom
- Mascot Skate | Saturday, 2/21 | The River's Edge

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 Expo '26 | Wednesday, 2/18

Notable Dates

- Holiday Closure 1/19
 - All departments and offices except The River's Edge
- Council Goal Setting and Budget workshops
 - Saturdays, 1/24, 1/31 & 2/7 | 8:30-1PM | City Hall – Council Chambers
- Holiday Closure 2/16
 - All departments and offices except The River's Edge

City of Davenport

Department: Parks and Recreation

Contact Info: |

Action / Date

1/15/2026

Subject:

Riverfront Improvement Commission Report

Recommendation:

Background:

Attachments:

None