

Park Board Meeting

April 27, 2026

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a Park Board Workshop at 3:30 pm on Monday, April 27, 2026, at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Commissioners Tim Daniel, Tyler Tucker, and Nic Stevenson were present. Also, present were Executive Director/Clerk Benjamin Rae, Deputy Director Caleb Burgard, Director of Parks/Golf Maintenance Scott Mack, and Administrative Manager Leah Hoenke. President Scott Karsky and Commissioner Zach Keller were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: MOTION: Tyler Tucker; SECOND: Nic Stevenson to approve agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes-3; Nays-0; Absent-2 (Karsky/Keller). Motion carried.

WORKSHOP/TOUR

2026 Project Update – Executive Director Benjamin Rae gave an update on 2026 projects.

Parks Projects: Veterans Pavilion carpet replacement completed; shop expansion in progress until fall; Friendship Park shelter set for Fall 2026; overflow parking at Veterans Pavilion will need to go to the Board of Adjustment due to City ordinance that parking lots inside city limits are required to be paved; trail improvement behind Gress Complex has been permitted and set for May 2026; DCBT backstop net replacement is complete; Jaycee Park trail phase 1, funding for Fall 2027; Hewson Park irrigation in progress, summer 2026. Hewson Park irrigation in progress.

Equipment & Fleet Projects: Scissor lift complete; triplex vibratory rollers complete.

WRIC Projects: Compressor rebuild #2 scheduled for May 2026; carpet replacement set for summer 2026; Charbonneau heater replacement complete; kick plate replaced June 2026; parking lot lines requesting quotes.

Administrative Projects: District cameras in progress; network equipment upgrade complete.

HRGC Projects: 13/14 cart path complete; 11 cart path in progress; pro shop renovation set for winter 2026-2027; irrigation filter ordered for summer 2026.

WRCC Projects: Leisure pool play structure design complete, summer 2026; HVAC controllers receiving quotes, May 2026; leisure pool flooring out to bid, summer 2026; new carpet bid accepted, summer 2026; ice machine in progress; diving board quote received; drainage improvements complete; MAC gym painting quotes received, summer 2026; concessions/admissions window quotes in progress; deck chairs for outdoor pool complete.

New Disc Golf Course Discussion – Executive Director Benjamin Rae presented a proposal submitted by Darryl Nodland for a potential disc golf course on Patterson Lake property. He asked the Board whether they felt the location would be suitable for a community-focused course rather than a competitive course. Discussion followed regarding existing disc golf courses at Patterson Lake and Memorial Park. Vice President Tim Daniel questioned whether there was sufficient demand for disc golf in the area. Director Rae asked the Board if they would consider approving the course if it involved no direct cost to the District and noted that the area could serve as a future trail connection. Additional discussion was held regarding trail development and potential parking locations. Director of Parks/Golf Maintenance Scott Mack commented that the course would require approximately 11 additional acres of mowing. Board members expressed concern about committing additional funding and resources, and the consensus was that the fiscal impact outweighed the priority of adding a new disc golf course at this time. Commissioner Nic Stevenson stated that while he is not opposed to exploring recreational opportunities, but stated that demand should be there, and that there is demand for other recreational resources.

WRCC Facility Tour – Executive Director Benjamin Rae gave a tour of the WRCC renovation project.

2027 General Fund Budget Considerations – Executive Director Rae reviewed the 2027 Budget Considerations.

Payroll – Finance and payroll system is at its end of life. Transition to a cloud-based timekeeping system that could also handle payroll would impact the general fund an additional \$6,000/year.

Finance – Finance and payroll system is at its end of life. The transition from our existing vendor to a new cloud-based system would cost \$75,000 for the transition but would be a similar cost to the general fund each year.

Cybersecurity – Increase security of District information will cost the District an additional \$6,000 per year to the general fund.

Equipment Lease Renewal – The current parks/golf equipment lease ends this year. Current requests exceed the current lease from 5 years ago. Staff will work to get a solid number by summer, and the goal is to stay near the existing general fund budget number.

ADA Digital Accessibility – We must meet ADA digital accessibility requirements for all public facing platforms by April 2028. A quote has been received from CivicPlus for ADA complaint website at a cost of \$8,200/year per website (we have 4) plus set up costs plus an additional \$3,000 per year for PDF DocAccess. We will most likely push this item off until 2028.

Half Cent Sales Tax Review – Deputy Director Caleb Burgard reviewed items that we feel are public safety components that need to be addressed. Park District AED's \$6470; Heat exchanger for Studio C \$20,275; leisure pool play structure pump/motor \$18,000; water heaters \$19,295; sauna/steam room lights repair \$2,000; lazy river pump/motor TBD; furniture replacement TBD. Director Benjamin Rae said priorities are the water heaters and the heat exchanger from a safety perspective. Commissioner Tyler Tucker commented that there is a new code that will require carbon monoxide detectors in our facilities. Director Rae said he has \$250,000 from the improvement fund that we will need to take care of now and replace with the half cent sales tax in 2027. He will be presenting to the City the first week of June to request \$1,500,000 from half cent sales tax for 2027. For 2028 and beyond his recommendation is to maintain a \$500,000 reserve in WRCC improvement fund reserve; request could be \$500,000 per year (\$300-\$350,000 O & M and \$150-\$200,000 projects) to keep the project fund in a good place. Goal as a staff is to keep closing the operational deficit. Discussion followed on the half cent sales tax fund and our potential future needs. 2028 and beyond we should be looking at \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 per year toward a facility or expansion. We could potentially ask for \$500,000 from the half cent sales tax and work with the City to bond for another facility. Discussion followed on future facilities or expansion to WRCC. Commissioner Nic Stevenson commented that the need for indoor space has increased and he doesn't see that going away. Vice President Tim Daniel says he agrees 100%, what is the most needed for the most amount of people. Executive Director Rae reviewed the other projects which are

the splash pad, ninja course, 9-hole golf course and Heart River Trail. He said they are going to focus on the ninja course, and the 9-hole golf course is also getting some traction. He also made the board aware of the Rural Health Transformation Grant that we are working with the School District to put together a unified plan for improved wellness programs, more recreational elementary school age sports programming, etc. He said this grant could potentially add staff that is grant funded. Commissioner Tyler Tucker said he believes if the grant dollars are available then he would support that. Commissioner Stevenson said it is a great opportunity and isn't much of fiscal impact and improves the quality of life of the community.

Commissioner Tyler asked about the arena football league. Deputy Director Caleb Burgard said Antwon Smith called and asked if the board would consider an independent type of league in the facility. After discussion they felt that we were already uneasy with the league and team and didn't think they would support at this time. Director Burgard also said he talked with Terry Foster who is the league commissioner and they would still like to possibly consider Dickinson as they have an interest in having a mid-west team in the league.

Commissioner Nic Stevenson asked about the bond for this facility. Director Rae said the bond was paid off last year. Discussion followed on future facility bonding. Director Rae said we would sit down as staff to figure out what type of facility we will pursue and then present it to the board, saying that an indoor multi-use court space is of higher priority. Discussion was also held on future ice and how to close the gap on the cost to run the facility to potentially get a third sheet of ice.

Adjournment – MOTIONED BY: Nic Stevenson; SECOND BY: Tyler Tucker to adjourn the meeting at 5:34 pm. All aye, motion carried.

PREPARED BY:
CLERK

APPROVED BY:
VICE PRESIDENT