Park Board Meeting

July 7, 2026

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a Park Board Workshop at 7:30 am on Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Commissioners Scott Karsky, Tim Daniel, Tyler Tucker, Zach Keller, Zach Jahner were present. Also, present were Executive Director/Clerk Benjamin Rae, Deputy Director Caleb Burgard, and Administrative Manager Leah Hoenke. Commissioner Zach Keller was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: MOTION: Tim Daniel; SECOND: Tyler Tucker to approve agenda with the addition of the Property Purchase or Exchange item. Roll call vote: Ayes-4; Nayes-0; Absent-1 (Keller). Motion carried.

WORKSHOP:

Discussion on Board Organization/Assignments - Executive Director Benjamin Rae reviewed the board organization requirements, noting that the board must appoint a President, Vice President, and a representative to the City Planning/Zoning Commission. He explained that, historically, the President and Vice President have also served on the Executive Committee and Budget Committee, and that Commissioner Tyler Tucker has been assigned to oversee WRCC-related matters during the renovation project. Director Rae described the President's responsibilities, the agendas and conducting board meetings. He also clarified that committees serve in an advisory capacity only and do not have voting authority. Commissioners discussed potential appointments:

- Tyler Tucker recommended that Nic Stevenson and Tim Daniel continue serving as President and Vice President in some capacity.
- Tim Daniel suggested taking off the President and Vice President from the Budget Committee to allow for broader board participation or having only one serve on that committee.
- Director Rae noted that Zach Keller had expressed interest in joining the Budget Committee, which would likely require him to step away from Planning/Zoning responsibilities.

Newly elected Commissioner Zach Jahner expressed interest in serving on the Planning/Zoning Commission to gain experience and knowledge. Director Rae reminded the board that the purpose of the workshop was discussion only and that formal appointments would be made at the July 13 meeting. Additional recommendations discussed included:

- Nic Stevenson recommending Tim Daniel for President.
- Tim Daniel recommending Zach Keller and Nic Stevenson serve on the Budget Committee.
- Director Rae noting that Stevenson's role on the Parks Foundation could remain unchanged or be reassigned.
- Tyler Tucker expressing interest in serving on the Parks Foundation.

The board also discussed the idea of assigning individual commissioner portfolios. President Karsky indicated he did not believe portfolios were necessary. Tim Daniel agreed that more in-depth board discussions would be beneficial. To improve board engagement and education, Director Rae suggested returning to the practice of holding more workshops and possibly organizing a board retreat. Commissioner Stevenson recommended structuring workshops around specific subject areas, while Deputy Director Caleb Burgard suggested holding them on a quarterly basis. The discussion concluded with Karsky reiterating that formal nominations and appointments on all discussed items would be considered at the July 13 meeting.

Property Purchase or Exchange - Executive Director Benjamin Rae reviewed the background information for the property purchase or exchange. Tooz Construction is selling two parcels of property totaling approximately 1.62 acres. The property includes a sledding area that has been used for generations on the northeast side of water tower hill. Development of the property would permanently restrict access to the sledding area. The Park District has attempted to sell a parcel of property one block away from the Tooz property of approximately one acre with no bids at the most recent posting. There is currently interest from two entities for the property, including a potential property exchange. Outside of providing sledding access, the staff currently can see no other use of the property. The District has no need for additional park space in the area, thus the desire to sell the existing parcel. There is some concern about advertising it as a designated sledding space as it is in a residential area with no parking other than on street parking and walking access, which may be a concern for nearby homeowners. The maintenance difference between the two properties would be minimal and would consist of keeping the grass mowed. Other sledding areas on DPRD property is much larger than any of the others listed. Winter infrastructure is a primary need identified in the SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) and in community surveys. Staff included future planning locations for sledding, but this property was not one of the considered locations. Executive Director Rae stated that staff have no recommendations at this time. The purpose of this item is for discussion only and would come forward at a future meeting for approval. Discussion followed.

Adjournment – MOTION: Nic Stevenson; SECOND: Tyler Tucker to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 am. All aye, motion carried.

PREPARED BY:	APPROVED BY:
CLERK	PRESIDENT