

**Park Board Meeting
November 10, 2025**

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a Regular Meeting at 3:30 pm on Monday, November 10, 2025, at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Scott Karsky, Tim Daniel, Nic Stevenson, and Zach Keller. Also, present were Executive Director/Clerk Benjamin Rae, Director of Buildings/Grounds Craig Pearson, Director of Recreation/Facilities Caleb Burgard, and Leah Hoenke, Administrative Manager. Commissioner Nic Stevenson joined the meeting at 3:35 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: MOTIONED BY: Zach Keller; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel. President Scott Karsky added an item to agenda, Skate Park Comments. Roll call vote: Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent-1 (Stevenson). Motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA – Consent agenda items were presented for approval as follows. Meeting minutes from October 6 and October 20; and Claims in the amount of \$569,754.99. MOTIONED BY: Tim Daniel; SECONDED BY: Tyler Tucker to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent-1 (Stevenson). Motion carried

BUILDINGS/GROUNDS

Director of Buildings/Grounds Report – Director Craig Pearson provided a written report for informational purposes.

Skate Park Comments – Steven Charter was present to represent the Dickinson skate park community, advocating for improved lighting and an indoor facility, highlighting the park's growing popularity and the need for beginner-friendly features. He said they are also looking for a place to skate during the cold months, saying that he has his own equipment, just needs a space preferably with concrete floor. He said Rapid City recently built an indoor park and he knows of one in Regina, Canada as well. Commissioner Zach Keller asked what amenities he's looking for in an expansion. Steven said beginner friendly amenities are what is most needed. Executive Director Benjamin Rae spoke on repairs needed at the skate park and said he would be happy to sit down with these guys to figure out what kind of amenities they are looking at and put together a better game plan. Another community member, Charlie, was also present to speak. He said the skate park has been overcrowded and as for the expansion, he agreed that more beginner amenities are needed. He mentioned a skate park in Sioux Falls, SD, that is a picture-perfect skate park, and he believes it will benefit the kids of the community greatly. He also said something indoors in the winter would be awesome and they are more than happy to help. Discussion followed on foldable structures. President Scott Karsky recommended the creation of a skate park user group and possible association to help the process.

RECREATION/FACILITIES

Director of Recreation/Facilities Report – Director Caleb Burgard provided a written report for informational purposes.

Badlands Big Sticks Agreement Review – Director Caleb Burgard reviewed his executive summary. He said they looked closely at expenses at the ballpark and are roughly estimating half of added expenses are due to the Big Sticks use. He said he looked at other facility comparisons in the state and their annual rent is more than what we have in place. The recommendation is to approval of the amendment giving us the authority to waive the \$5,000 facility improvement based on year to year financial. Commissioner Stevenson asked if the Big Sticks must get improvements approved by the District. Executive Director Rae said yes, any renovations must be pre-approved. MOTIONED BY: Zach Keller; SECONDED BY: Nic Stevenson to approve the provided Badlands Big Sticks amended agreement. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

Agreement to Operate Concessions and Liquor at DCBT Ballpark – Director Burgard reviewed and said this was on the October agenda. Given that it is the same entity, it has since changed to a 4-year agreement coinciding with existing agreement at the ballpark, both concessions and user lease agreement will conclude December 2029. Original agreement was an 8-year agreement. MOTIONED BY: Tim Daniel; SECONDED BY: Tyler Tucker to approve the concessions and liquor agreement with the Badlands Big Sticks as provided. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

BUSINESS/FINANCE

October Financial – MOTIONED BY: Tyler Tucker; SECONDED BY: Zach Keller to approve the September financial. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

3rd Quarter Financial Review – Executive Director Benjamin Rae gave a third quarter financial update. The general fund remains strong at \$2.3 million; revenue is up along with expenses. Patterson Lake continues to operate at a \$80,000 loss, consistent since ownership began. Two lots remain for sale and daily visits and camping activity have been steady over the past three years. West River Ice Center revenue and expenses have increased. Hockey club currently pays approximately 35% of actual operating costs. Ice time rates have increased 25% over the past three years to reduce the deficit. Summer ice has added minimal utility costs; compressor upgrades have improved efficiency. Despite efforts, the facility is maintaining but not reducing the deficit. Golf Course revenue growth in season passes, green fees, and cart fees. Pro shop sales remain consistent over the past three years. Projected annual revenue: \$1.5 million; expenses have risen but remain reasonable. 853 season passes sold and 29,000 rounds played year-to-date. Community Center overall revenue down \$100,000 compared to last year. Annual passes only \$20,000 lower than prior year. Memberships increased in most categories except punch cards and annual memberships (due to last year's \$50,000 police department grant). Higher lifeguard staffing costs contributed to expense increases. New fitness equipment scheduled for mid-November delivery; renovation planning underway. Outdoor Pool increased number of open days compared to last year, though still below the 70-day target. Weather remains a key factor. Concessions performed strongly. Park & Facility Reservations are showing shelter reservations remain steady with Rocky Butte Park coming in low. Indoor reservations at Stark County Veterans Pavilion and Heart River Retreat continue to be strong.

Investment Review and Renewal – Executive Director Benjamin Rae reviewed saying the staff recommends approval of investing \$1 million in a 12-month CD with Bravera Bank at a rate of 3.85%. Fiscal impact is \$38,500 in interest earned. MOTIONED BY: Zach

Keller; SECONDED BY: Nic Stevenson to approve the investment of \$1 million with the highest interest rate on a 12-month CD. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

2026 Administrative Calendar – MOTIONED BY: Tyler Tucker; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to approve the 2026 Administrative Calendar. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

2026 Project Approval – Executive Director Benjamin Rae reviewed the 2026 projects. The 2026 Project Plan, originally presented at the October 20, 2025 board workshop, has undergone three revisions: removal of electrical work for the golf course starter shack (now included in the pro shop remodel), a cost reduction for trail improvements behind Gress Field #1 from \$20,000 to \$10,000 based on a submitted bid, and combining DiamondBrite patching on the leisure pool with the play structure replacement, increasing that combined cost by \$25,000. Funding for the plan will draw from multiple sources: the Capital Betterment Fund will maintain a 20% reserve; \$200,000 from 2025 General Fund revenues will support golf course projects; \$218,500 is already budgeted in the 2026 General Fund; \$3,500 will come from WRIC Naming; and \$621,000 from the WRCC Improvement Fund (½ sales tax), leaving a remaining balance of \$347,245.38 after allocations. Additionally, staff recommends beginning the shop expansion, Charbonneau heater replacement, and network upgrades before 2026. MOTIONED BY: Zach Keller; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to approve the 2026 Project Plan. Roll call vote: Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

Approval of DPR Foundation to Fundraise – Executive Director Rae reviewed and said the foundation must get approval for any capital fundraising. He said in no way are these projects imminent but there must be approval before fundraising. MOTIONED BY: Zach Keller; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to approve the DPR Foundation to fundraise for the ninja playground, splash pad, Jaycee park trail phase #1 and a 9-hole golf course. Roll call vote: Ayes-5; Nays-0; Absent-0. Motion carried.

Executive Director Report – Executive Director Benjamin Rae provided a written report for informational purposes. He noted that we have been working with the county on a Transportation Alternatives (TA) Grant to approve the application for the FY2028 year for 8th St. S from State Ave. to the south entrance to Patterson Lake with a split of application costs. He met with IXOM to put together a proposal to get some used units on the lake and will provide some service in exchange for advertising and/or other services. Watch for something to be provided in December or January.

Adjournment – MOTIONED BY: Tyler Tucker; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to adjourn the meeting at 4:28 pm. All aye, motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Clerk

President