

**Park Board Meeting
October 20, 2025**

Pursuant to due call and order, the Board of Park Commissioners, Dickinson Park District, met for a Park Board Workshop Meeting at 3:30 pm on Monday, October 20, 2025, at the West River Community Center.

ROLL CALL: Present were Commissioners Scott Karsky, Tim Daniel, Zach Keller, and Tyler Tucker. Also, present were Executive Director/Clerk Benjamin Rae, Director of Buildings/Grounds Craig Pearson, HR/Finance Manager Patty Riely and Leah Hoenke, Administrative Manager. Commissioner Nic Stevenson was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: MOTIONED BY: Tim Daniel; SECONDED BY: Zach Keller to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Ayes-4; Nays-0; Absent-1 (Stevenson). Motion carried.

PROJECT WORKSHOP

- a. Open House Review – Executive Director Benjamin Rae reviewed saying that the process was very successful with approximately 150 attending over the four sessions. He reviewed the future amenities board showing that the ninja playground, splash pad and tree planting were the most popular. He then showed the parks/trails map showing the greatest need for parks is in the north and east areas of Dickinson with the south side of Patterson Lake. He reviewed the spend your dollars station. He said he discovered that people don't want to put all eggs in one basket and said if they were associated with a user group it was very clear what they wanted. Across the board, the top four items were outdoor ice, trail development, 9-hole golf course and bike park. Discussion followed on a 9-hole course. The final station was on programs, youth programming's biggest request was a golf simulator league for kids and adult programming was pickleball along with comments on providing more races, 5k's, half marathon, etc.
- b. Master Plan – Draft – Executive Director Benjamin Rae asked the board to review the master plan draft and said we are still trying to tie up loose ends but would like the Board's feedback.
- c. 2026 Fund Review – Director Rae reviewed the funds as of 9/30/25. He highlighted the following:
 - a. General Fund: \$2,328,206.27 (up \$182,918.26 from 2024). 2026 – a portion of funding will be delayed due to state tax credits. Property tax collection rates YTD: 92.5% in 2025 vs. 91.3% in 2024. Golf is currently \$381,565.96 revenue over expenses. Carry over \$1.4 million in reserve year to year, estimate \$500,000 over this amount.
 - b. West River Community Center Fund: (\$241,030.55) – (down \$124,064.44 from 2024). Down \$44,000 in personal training, but even on admissions. Up \$46,000 in lifeguard wages. There is a \$0 carryover balance each year, estimate \$25,000 under this amount.
 - c. Special Assessments Fund: \$2,825.64 – inactive fund.
 - d. Emergency Fund: \$484,177.15 – reserve funds.
 - e. Dickinson Park District Foundation Fund: \$23,103.57 (down \$1,451.75 from 2024) – startup funds.
 - f. Capital Betterment Fund: \$595,058.79 (up \$184,065.42 from 2024). Unassigned project funds. WRIC Naming: \$5,000/year to 2033 (Charbonneau/Cornerstone), \$5,000/year to 2034 (Martin Construction). Current WRIC naming rights balance: \$25,000. Reconcile annually with current projects fund. \$737,031 in tax revenue 2026 - \$1,332,089.79 available in 2026 (goal: \$589,624.80)
 - g. Current Projects Fund: \$220,050.90 (down \$473,150.94 from 2024). Assigned projects fund. Veterans Memorial Playground: \$100,000 in, \$100,000 out by year end. Stranski Trail segment: \$112,224 out, \$89,779.20 eligible for reimbursement. Scoreboard: \$99,626.67 out (approximately \$35k pending + \$35k Big Sticks payment). WRIC Naming: \$23,768.57. Reconcile annually with Capital Betterment Fund.
 - h. Future Projects Fund: \$466,059.50 (up \$257,377.94 from 2024). Unassigned projects fund. \$10,000 from DSU 2025, \$10,000/year to 2035 DCBT. Roughly \$100,000 out to scoreboard at year end, Big Sticks paying back approximately \$35,000/year for 3 years. Approximately \$366,000 is available in 2026.
 - i. Park Land Development Fund: \$676,836.22 (up from \$261,997.55 from 2024). Cash in lieu. New parks/trails. \$676,836.22 available in 2026.
 - j. West River Improvement Fund: \$1,117,815.46 (up from \$168,425.21 from 2024). Half cent sales tax. 2025 approved remaining \$1,424,570.08. \$1,175,000 from half cent sales tax in 2026, \$100,000 lighting grant, \$968,245.38 available in 2026.
- d. Project Planning Initiatives – Executive Director Benjamin Rae provided the Board with Project Planning Initiatives and asked them to review and send him questions if they have any.
- e. 5-Year CIP's – Director Rae reviewed the 5-year Capital Improvement Projects (CIP's) focusing on 2026. He went over West River Community Center, West River Ice Center, Parks, Patterson Lake, Veterans Pavilion, Heart River Retreat, Heart River Golf Course, Administrative Projects along with Equipment and Fleet. He then showed a master facilities plan where he prioritized future projects as high, moderate or low with some of the high

priorities being a splash pad, Friendship Park pavilion, ninja course at Heroes Park, Hewson Park baseball/soccer fields, Optimist Park outdoor ice, Jaycee Park river trail, Crooked Crane phase 2, WRIC storage addition, splash pad at the outdoor pool, and 9-hole executive golf course.

- f. WRCC & Jaycee Master Plans – Director Rae showed site plans for the West River Community Center and Jaycee Park potential future development in both areas.
- g. 2026 Recommendations – Director Rae presented the 2026 financial recommendations to the Board, outlining allocations across funds. The General Fund totals \$1.8 million, with \$1.4 million reserved, and \$200,000 each allocated to current and future projects, including HRGC improvements. The Capital Betterment Fund holds \$1,332,089.79, maintaining a \$742,464.99 reserve (including \$17,690 for WRIC naming), with \$589,624.80 directed to current projects and \$3,500 from WRIC naming used for WRIC kickplates. The Future Projects Fund of \$366,000 will support fundraising efforts by the Park and Recreation Foundation for a splash pad and ninja playground. The Park Land Development Fund of \$676,836.22 will also support fundraising for Jaycee Park Trail Phase 1. Lastly, the WRCC Improvement Fund of \$968,244.66 will retain a \$372,244.66 reserve and authorize \$596,000 for 2026 WRCC CIP projects. Director Rae then discussed meeting the needs of the community where he highlighted greater connectivity and trails access; quality playgrounds; splash pad; outdoor winter venue development; bike park and an additional golf course. He also highlighted meeting the needs of the user groups: Hockey, baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, pickleball, football, swimming, tennis, and the public schools. Discussion followed by each having their own focus and how we can work to meet the needs.

Adjournment – MOTIONED BY: Zach Keller; SECONDED BY: Tim Daniel to adjourn the meeting at 5:38 pm. All aye, motion carried.

PREPARED BY:

APPROVED BY:

Clerk

President