

Shenandoah Park & Recreation Board

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 2, 2026

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Shenandoah Park & Recreation Boardroom

Call to Order

Chair Shelly Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

- Shelly Anderson
- Kevin Olson
- Nancy Maher
- Cheryl Mulligan
- Alissa McGinnis

Board Members Absent:

- Jeff Baker

Guest:

- Mayor Roger McQueen

Members of the Public:

- Eleanor Shirley
- Dan Cox
- Jim Cloepfil

Public Comments

Golf Course Foundation Update

Eleanor Shirley and representatives of the Golf Course Foundation provided an update on Foundation activities and future goals.

- The Foundation was established in March and has raised approximately \$22,000 to date.
- Current fundraising efforts are focused on extending concrete cart paths from Bridge #1 to Bridge #8, a project expected to utilize most of the funds raised so far.
- Discussion occurred regarding the condition of existing cart paths and the need for long-term improvements to support golfers and tournaments.
- Foundation representatives expressed a desire to increase support for golf opportunities in southwest Iowa, particularly youth golf programs.
- The Foundation recently subscribed to grant search software and is actively identifying funding opportunities.
- Representatives requested access to the Parks and Recreation Board strategic plan and offered assistance with future planning efforts.
- Discussion occurred regarding the importance of collecting golfer participation data, including local members, youth participants, and out-of-town visitors. This information is needed to support future grant applications and demonstrate community impact.
- A sign-in process at the golf course was discussed as a means of gathering attendance and demographic information.
- The Foundation suggested utilizing a tablet-based sign-in system to collect non-identifying demographic information such as zip codes and visitor statistics.
- Additional ideas included displaying Foundation information and fundraising progress at the pro shop, providing lending golf clubs through a donation-based rental system, and increasing public awareness of Foundation activities.
- Eleanor also requested easier public access to Parks and Recreation Board agendas and minutes through the City's website.
- Discussion occurred regarding partnership opportunities between the Foundation, the City of Shenandoah, and the Parks and Recreation Board for future grant and fundraising projects.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: Approve previous meeting minutes.

Moved by: Nancy Maher

Seconded by: Shelly Anderson

Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Approve the September 2, 2026 meeting agenda.

Moved by: Alissa McGinnis
Seconded by: Cheryl Mulligan

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Park Updates

Waubonsie Park

- Discussion continued regarding the proposed Waubonsie Park redevelopment project.
- Preliminary concept plans estimate project costs at nearly \$6 million.
- Board members discussed narrowing the project scope to create a more realistic, grant-ready project estimated closer to \$1.5 million.
- Eric with JEO will be contacted regarding development of a revised scope and updated probable cost estimate.

Cherry Hills Park

- Kevin Olson reported that the Cherry Hills Park sign has been repainted and restored by Norb Martin.
- Board members expressed appreciation for the work completed.

Gottsch Park

- Discussion occurred regarding recognition of the newly installed playground equipment.
- Members discussed coordinating a public recognition and dedication event in conjunction with Shenfest or another community gathering.

Safe Walk to School Trail

- Kevin Olson reported MidAmerican Energy has agreed to provide lighting for part of the Safe Walk Trail project.
- Members discussed exploring grant opportunities to enhance the appearance of the lighting system beyond standard utility lighting.
- Stanton's safe-walk lighting project was referenced as a potential model for future improvements.

Golf Course Update

- Additional discussion occurred regarding partnerships between the Golf Course Foundation and the Parks and Recreation Board.
- Members agreed that improved golfer attendance data will be valuable for future grant opportunities.
- Discussion occurred regarding potential fundraising events, tournament partnerships, and expanded community outreach efforts.

Pool Update

- Kevin Olson reported ongoing maintenance and seasonal wrap-up activities at the municipal pool.
- No major operational concerns were reported.

Armory Update

New Armory

- Mayor McQueen presented discussion regarding formally naming the new facility the Richard N. Hunt Activity Center.
- Board members expressed strong support for recognizing Mr. Hunt's contributions to Shenandoah while establishing a community-centered identity for the facility.
- Members discussed distinguishing the new building from the former armory, which continues to maintain historical military connections.

Meeting Location

- Kevin Olson announced that the next Parks and Recreation Board meeting will be held at the soon to be named Richard N. Hunt Activity Center.

Fitness Center Update

- Proposed memorial displays honoring Rosie Stark within the fitness center and spinning room were reviewed.
- Board members expressed support for the memorial displays.

Vision Shenandoah Update

- No report presented.
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NEW BUSINESS

Parks and Recreation Board Structure

Mayor McQueen discussed potential revisions to City Code Chapter 24 regarding the Parks and Recreation Board structure.

Discussion included:

- Transitioning the Board from elected positions to mayoral appointments approved by City Council.
- Maintaining the Board's current leadership structure, including election of officers by Board members.
- Retaining existing four-year terms.
- Comparison of appointment procedures used by other Iowa communities.
- Advantages and challenges associated with elected versus appointed board membership.

No action was taken.

Rosie Stark Memorial Displays

- The Board reviewed proposed memorial displays honoring Rosie Stark in the Fitness Center and spinning room.
- Members discussed the proposed designs and placement locations.
- Motion: Approve the Rosie Stark memorial displays as presented.
- Moved by: Alissa McGinnis
- Seconded by: Nancy Maher
- Motion carried.

Meeting Time Discussion

- Members discussed the possibility of changing future meeting times.
- Several members indicated the current 5:00 p.m. meeting time continues to work well.
- The matter was tabled until Jeff Baker is able to participate in the discussion.

Community Wayfinding Signage

- Nancy Maher suggested exploring directional signage similar to systems utilized in Atlantic, Iowa.

- Discussion focused on increasing visibility of parks, the golf course, recreational facilities, and other community destinations.
 - Kevin Olson agreed to begin conversations with the Rotary Club regarding potential support and funding opportunities.
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Action Items

- Contact Eric regarding a revised Waubonsie Park project scope and probable cost estimate.
- Research Stanton's safe-walk lighting system and potential grant funding opportunities.
- Develop a golf course sign-in process for visitor and demographic data collection.
- Send a thank-you note to Norb Martin from the board for restoration of the Cherry Hills Park sign.
- Notify Carole Hamilton of Board approval of the Rosie Stark memorial displays.
- Coordinate a community recognition event for the Gottsch Park playground.
- Begin discussions with the Rotary Club concerning community wayfinding signage.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at **6:20 p.m.**

Next Meeting

September 22, 2026

Richard N. Hunt Activity Center
