STEWARTVILLE PARK BOARD
Meeting of November 9, 2026
City Hall - 6:00 PM

Minutes

I. Call to Order - Roll Call – The meeting was called to order by Beyer at 6:04 PM.

Board Members Present: Beyer, Lonien, Amos, and Councilperson Oeltjen.
Also Present: Community Development Coordinator Gehling and Jamie Meyer.

II. Approval of Consent Agenda

Matters listed below in this "Consent Agenda" are considered to be routine for the Park Board and shall be approved by one motion. If further discussion is desired regarding any item, it may be removed from the Consent Agenda for individual consideration.

A. Park Board September 14, 2026 Minutes
B. Park Board November 9, 2026 Agenda

Motion made by Lonien, seconded by Amos to approve the consent agenda. Unanimously approved.

III. Financial Update – Beyer provided an update on year-to-date expenses. A short Board discussion occurred regarding payments made to date and future payments to be made.

IV. New Business

A. Jamie Meyer – Jamie Meyer, representing Stewartville Youth Summer Baseball (SYSB), presented several proposed ballfield improvements for City parks. Meyer explained that SYSB's top priority is installing netting at the Meadow Park North ballfield to help contain foul balls. The proposed netting would extend the existing backdrop by approximately five feet. Meyer stated that SYSB would cover the costs of the netting and coordinate with Hale and the Public Works team on installation.

Meyer also outlined several future improvement projects at the Bear Cave Park ballfields to make the Board aware of potential plans, including additional batting cages, renovating aging dugouts, two new shelters (one on the east side and one on the west side), moving home plate closer to the backstop with associated field modifications to accommodate the option for 90-foot bases, and installing fence toppers.

Board discussion took place regarding the proposed improvements, and the Board thanked Meyer and SYSB for their continued investment in the City's recreational facilities. The Board directed Meyer to work with Hale on moving forward with the netting installation at Meadow Park North. For the remaining proposed projects, the Board requested that SYSB return with more specific plans and cost estimates for consideration as those projects become priorities.

B. SYAA Flag Football Fields - Gehling provided an update that Tyler Carrigan with SYAA had reached out regarding drainage concerns at the SYAA flag football fields. Gehling noted that neither Carrigan nor Hale were available to attend the meeting and that the item would be brought back for discussion in January when both could be present. Gehling shared that Hale will likely meet with Carrigan at the fields prior to the January meeting to review the drainage concerns and discuss potential solutions. Carrigan is interested in exploring a potential cost-sharing arrangement between SYAA and the Park Board for the selected drainage solution.

   Board discussion took place, and the Board agreed to table further discussion until the January meeting, when additional information and potential solutions can be presented. The Board will then determine whether it wishes to participate in any associated costs.

C. SYAA Playground - Beyer explained that the SYAA playground, located just south of the SYAA building, does not currently have a concrete border like other playgrounds in the City’s parks. Beyer noted that adding a concrete border would help contain the wood chips and make ongoing maintenance easier for Public Works. Following Board discussion, the Board expressed interest in obtaining bids for the proposed concrete border.

Motion made by Lonien, seconded by Amos directing Hale to obtain bids for the proposed concrete border at the SYAA playground. Unanimously approved.

D. Walking Wednesdays (LGR) - Gehling explained that Mike Arneson with Leadership Greater Rochester reached out regarding their annual project, which will focus on incorporating "Walking Wednesdays" in Rochester and surrounding communities. Arneson requested feedback from the Board regarding any potential conflicts with hosting the walks on Stewartville's trail system, as well as suggestions for potential starting and ending locations. Gehling noted that participation would be free, and Leadership Greater Rochester would assist with marketing and promoting the walks. A community volunteer would also likely be needed to help lead the walks. Gehling stated that he plans to meet with Arneson to review the City's trail map and discuss potential route options.

Following Board discussion, the Board recommended using Florence Park or Bear Cave Park as potential starting and ending locations, as parking at Meadow Park can be limited when the ballfields are in use on Wednesdays. The Board did not identify any other potential conflicts and expressed support for the proposed use of the City's trails.

V. Old Business

A. Meadow Park North and Brin Park Trail Connection Updates - Gehling updated the Board that the gravel paths at Meadow Park North and Brin Park have been completed.

B. SMIF Small Town Grant Update - Gehling updated the Board that the City was not selected for the specific Small Town Grant through SMIF; however, SMIF felt strongly about the proposed project and utilized additional funding to award the City the full $10,000 requested. Gehling explained that the same guidelines as the original Small Town Grant would apply, including a 25% local match. To maximize the grant funding, the total project cost must be at least $12,500. Gehling reminded the Board that, at a previous meeting, the Board approved up to $10,000 in Park Board funds toward the project.

Gehling presented his recommended improvements to the disc golf course, which align with the original grant application. Proposed improvements include new baskets, tee signs, a large course layout sign, updated rules and regulations signage, galvanized U-channel signposts, a new pavilion with concrete, and wayfinding signs to help users locate the next tee. Gehling estimated the total project cost to be approximately $15,000, with $10,000 covered by the SMIF grant.

Board discussion took place regarding the recommended improvements, and the Board directed Gehling to proceed with the purchases once the grant funds from SMIF are received.

C. Bear Cave Park Amphitheater Parking Lot/Road Paving - Gehling explained that action on this agenda item was tabled at the previous meeting due to several Board members being absent. Gehling updated the Board that the City would like to include the project in the 2027 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) bidding process to potentially secure more favorable pricing, as contractors would already be in the area completing the City's street project. Gehling requested direction from the Board on whether to move forward with obtaining formal bids for paving the Bear Cave Park Amphitheater Road and associated parking lots. Gehling explained that once bids are received, the item would be brought back to the Board for final consideration and approval or denial.

Board discussion took place, and the Board expressed support for moving forward with obtaining bids alongside the City's street project, noting that combining the work could result in more favorable pricing. The Board agreed to proceed with the bidding process and review the bids once received before making a final decision on the project.

Motion made by Amos, seconded by Lonien to move forward with obtaining bids for paving the Bear Cave Park Amphitheater Road and associated Parking lots as part of the 2027 CIP street project bidding process. Unanimously approved.

VI. Open Mic – N/A

VII. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Motion made by Lonien, seconded by Councilperson Oeltjen to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam Gehling, Community Development Coordinator