



## FOX CROSSING PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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### PARK COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

December 10, 2025

**Park Commissioners Present:** Jim Beson, Jordyn Kurer, Kathy Sylvester, Jean Wollerman, Matt Werner, Jill Rasmussen (Virtually)

**Excused:** Suneer Patel

**Staff Present:** Director Amanda Geiser, Village Manager Jeffrey Sturgell

**Others in Attendance:** Trustee Kate McQuillan, Rose O'Brien, Alison Galley, Linda Dums, Kris Robers, John Spielbauer, Eric Cleven, Mark Cleven, Bethanie Gengler, John Gregorius, Tom Geracie

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The Commission meeting was held at the Municipal Complex, 2000 Municipal Dr., Neenah, and was called to order by Commissioner Beson at 6:00PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call was taken.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND DISCUSSION OF EXPENDITURES

The Park Commission dispenses with the reading of, and adopts, the November 12, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Commissioner Sylvester motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Kurer. Motion carried.

### PUBLIC FORUM

- John Gregorius – resident of Benjamin Court, spoke in regards to the Schildt Park project. He does not favor the new connection into the park. It will change the nature and safety of the neighborhood. Cars frequently fail to stop at the corner of Benjamin Ct. and Old Buggy Dr. Families who live on Benjamin Court with small kids will be put at risk. Please reconsider the new road.
- Linda Dums – resident of Benjamin Court, spoke in regards to the Schildt Park project. She echoes Mr. Gregorius' concerns. She is a big fan of the park and programs. Her kids have done park programs over the years and this community is home to them. She is passionate about the street and the subdivision, including the safety of the entire subdivision. The increased traffic will be enough to be a hazard and the Village should consider other alternatives. Suggested to find a way to keep maintenance access but park users should use Cold Spring for vehicle access to the park.
- Kris Robers – resident of Benjamin Court, spoke in regards to the Schildt Park project. She lives on the end of the cul-de-sac. She noted she can't say a lot more than what was already said, echoing the safety concerns. She is thankful the berm was removed from the plans. It comes down to the through road and the safety. The park used by a wide variety of age groups. Most traffic will be from outside of the neighborhood. She noted she loves the new paved path and the neighborhood will appreciate it.
- Tom Geracie – resident of Benjamin Court, spoke in regards to the Schildt Park project. He echoes fellow neighbor's concerns. There doesn't need to be a road there. There isn't a lot of traffic on the road and people moved to this street because of the lack of traffic. He is supportive of what is being planned for the park but feels a through road is not the answer. The 4-way stop at Old Buggy Dr. and Benjamin Ct. is already dangerous. Adding a road through makes it that much more dangerous. He asked what will be done to make intersections safe if this goes through.
- Alison Galley – resident of Benjamin Court, spoke in regards to the Schildt Park project. She lives right at the 4-way stop which is already dangerous. Adding a road through makes it that much more dangerous. She does not feel anyone in the neighborhood wants this. Adding a road endangers everyone. She asked what will be done to make intersections safe if this goes through. She suggested a survey be sent out to the entire neighborhood.

## **DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION**

**A. Volunteer of the Year Award – Rose O’Brien:** Director Geiser presented the 2025 Volunteer of the Year Award to Rose O’Brien. Rose was recognized for her long-time involvement in special events offered throughout the year, specifically at Fritsch Park. Due to Rose’s ongoing commitment, positive attitude, and overall support of the department, the Commission noted she was very deserving of this award.

**B. Schildt Park:** Chairperson Beson opened the discussion regarding the Schildt Park project.

Commissioner Beson spoke that he doesn’t feel the new entrance will generate very much traffic as there is no incentive to use Benjamin Ct. to get somewhere other than the park. If this was a direct connection to Shady Lane it would be more of an issue. He doesn’t feel it will be used very often but it could generate more traffic that neighbors are accustomed to. He referenced previous comments that it will become a speedway and does not believe that will happen. He reminded everyone it is not a through street or a road.

Commissioner Wollerman asked if it were to be eliminated, where would the turnaround be. Director Geiser indicated staff would have to explore alternative turnaround options.

Commissioner Beson believes a dead-end in the park would be a magnet for trouble. Having a through driveway would allow police officers to go through easier.

Commissioner Kurer noted that traffic is not necessarily a bad thing. Cars and regular activity in parks have been shown to reduce people hanging out in the park after hours. In her professional experience it has worked having through access and Grand Chute would not design a future park to have no through access. Having only a turnaround is inviting people to sit on a dead-end. She does understand the concerns about increased vehicle traffic.

Commissioner Sylvester believes by removing the through access, the current cul-de-sac would become a parking area and would become more of a problem that residents may realize. She noted her experience with traffic near O’Hauser Park, indicating the main road to the park is still off O’Leary, even though there are additional surrounding streets leading to the park. She believes people will use the cul-de-sac to get close to what is on that side of the park. Unfortunately, the people that fly though and are speeding on streets are the local neighbors.

Commissioner Beson echoed that park visitors will park wherever is closest to their desired activity. It is difficult to project into the future what the traffic flow will be but doesn’t foresee the traffic increase on Benjamin Ct. being significant.

Commissioner Wollerman questioned the distance between the parking lot and sledding hill versus parking on the cul-de-sac and sledding hill, nothing she may need to go to the park to look.

Commissioner Kurer noted that putting in a speed table would disincentivize people from using the park entrance as a pathway to Cold Spring Road. She noted that Schildt Park is a community park, and a community park’s intention is to serve a wider radius of people, beyond the local neighborhood. Future home buyers may prefer this access.

Commissioner Wollerman discussed the increase of park amenities for people will add an increased need for parking and removing that section of parking lot will not save a significant amount of money. She asked if no access drive is put into the plan, then what is the solution.

Commissioner Werner does not believe people going from point A to point B will not use that parking area to get to and from Cold Spring Rd. He believes the only people using the access area will be park visitors.

Commissioner Beson indicated there has been sufficient discussion and thanked residents for coming. A decision is not going to be made now and the information discussed tonight will be taken into consideration.

Director Geiser reported that while a decision has not been made, there is a desire to finalize the plans so the Village can get the project out to bid. She indicated getting them out to bid early in the year results in more favorable project costs and ensures the project will get done in a timely manner as the entire park will be closed for the majority of 2026. While we are not making a decision tonight, we will be looking to come to some sort of resolution soon. Residents who signed in will be updated on the project status.

## **REPORTS**

**A. Park Report:** Accepted as written.

**B. Recreation Report:** Accepted as written.

**C. Director Report:** Accepted as given.

**D. Commission Reports:**

- **Commissioner Beson:** The Breakfast with Santa event was a blast. Thought it went very well.
- **Commissioner Kurer:** No report.
- **Commissioner Patel:** Excused
- **Commissioner Rasmussen:** No report.
- **Commissioner Sylvester:** No report.
- **Commissioner Werner:** No report.
- **Commissioner Wollerman:** No report.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of Palisades Park Land Use Agreement – Appleton Little League:** *Commissioner Sylvester made a motion to approve the land use agreement as submitted. Commissioner Kurer seconded.*

This will be a two-year agreement, beginning January of 2026 and ending December of 2027.

*The motion was put to a vote and all were in favor, motion carried unanimously*

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

- None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Sylvester motioned, seconded by Commissioner Kurer, to adjourn the Park Commission meeting at 6:50PM. Motion carried unanimously.

***The next Commission meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2026, at the Municipal Complex, 2000 Municipal Drive, Neenah, at 6:00PM.***

Sincerely,

 1/14/2025  
Jim Beson

Chairperson - Village of Fox Crossing Park Commission