

HARLAN PARKS & RECREATION BOARD – September 14, 2026

The Harlan Parks & Recreation Board met on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 12:03 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Nic Christensen, Todd Berndt, Scott Petersen

Present Electronically: Troy Schaben

Absent: Jeff Moser, Ladonna Havick

Also Present: Tim Miller, Ashley Schleis, Gervas Mgonja, Maya Kenkel, Jenney Kelly, Joe Rueschenberg

The meeting was called to order by Berndt. It was moved by Christensen and seconded by Petersen to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Any conflicts of interest are to be stated when applicable. None.

It was moved by Christensen and seconded by Petersen to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2026, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Report – updates provided by Tim Miller

The recent weather has made it challenging to keep up with mowing.

The water line at Monogram Foods JJ Jensen is being replaced courtesy of HMU's equipment. So far it is only trenched and may not get connected this week due to weather.

A lot of the pool caulking (less than half) has been replaced under warranty. It is scheduled to get the water pipes pressure tested. Miller is looking into the cost of a full pool assessment by an engineering firm to determine the pool's longevity. The pool lights have not yet worked correctly. It has been worked on various times. The lights were installed in June, and the invoice has not been paid.

Monthly Financials – Pool & Parks (Information Only) – Last of pool salaries. The sales tax bill for the pool was paid.

Cyclone Tennis Courts – RFP Bid Approval – There are three bids to resurface, fill in cracks, and paint: Pro Track and Tennis Inc, Tennis Courts Unlimited Inc, and Play-Pro Recreation. The base bid for Pro Track and Tennis does not include a second resurfacing coat or taping. Adding those items puts it at the middle bid with a two-year warranty. Tennis Courts Unlimited did the Potter Park RFP which is holding up well considering there was no taping. They are the lowest bid and have a three-year warranty. Kelly asked for clarification that there is no cost sharing with Harlan Community Schools for the tennis courts, though they are used for meets.

It was moved by Petersen and seconded by Christensen to recommend to Council to accept the Tennis Courts Unlimited Inc bid for Cyclone Tennis Courts RFP. Motion carried unanimously.

River Access – The project is 98% complete—still needs seeding, additional rock, signage, and the bench. The DOT is putting native seeding in the ditch area; the City would like to have urban seeding. HMU will maintain other side of the fence. Rueschenberg presumes they will use brome and mow it down for the first two to three years to keep the weeds down until it is established. It should be then low maintenance. Berndt suggested a “No Camping” sign.

An SCCC ribbon cutting was discussed for fall or spring in addition to DOT's ribbon cutting. Spring is preferred—will check with DOT on the timing.

Rueschenberg advised that the City check out a spot to the west he noticed that looked like the river was cutting into the bank.

Disc Golf Update – Miller met with Justin today. There was miscommunication surrounding the pads. Miller had some contoured, but disc golf pads need to be level. The pads will be redone. There will be temporary tee signs until spring.

Grandma B's Dream Playground – Minor vandalism over Labor Day Weekend of toilet paper being thrown up on the restroom walls. Cannot confirm who is responsible, but it will be monitored. The ribbon cutting will be Sunday, September 27, 2026, at 4:00 PM—the community, Park and Rec members, major donors, and contractors are invited. There will be hotdogs, burgers, and brats; Little League is donating its leftover food. There is evidence of e-scooters being ridden on the equipment, but no one has seen it. No corrective action has been taken.

Parks Planning Document (Update & Discussion) – Dream Playground and River Access can be moved to completed. Lighting at JJ Jensen is in progress.

Grants Overview & Update –

- a) Iowa West Foundation – 3 cycles per year; Letter of inquiry period January, May, and Sept 1st; Application Due January, May, and Sept 15th) – Not eligible for Dream Playground
- b) Monogram Grant – May 31, 2026 (Basketball Goals) – Not eligible this time around.
- c) IPRA Mini Grant – Due end of January (\$1,000)

Other Business: Rueschenberg advised that there will be bridgework done on Highway 44, likely beginning in the spring. Justin and Matthew will be at the October meeting to discuss their projects.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at noon in the Council Chambers.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Maya Kenkel

Maya Kenkel, Recording Secretary

These minutes are subject to Board approval at the next regular meeting.