



PARKS MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2026

Attendees

Matthew Weyer
Jill Schipp
Andrew Berg
Rich Clark
Eric Rahman
Gary Matthews

The meeting started at 4:35 p.m. The July and August meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Rich and a second by Andy. Financials were approved on a motion by Jill and a second by Matt.

5th Street Park

Jill shared a revised quote and layout for the proposed sunshade project. Matt and Andy recently met with a potential donor, and a response is expected later this month. The Park Board expressed support for the project but will need to determine the amount of financial commitment after evaluating other project priorities.

Playground safety was discussed, including options for replacing the spiral slide. It was noted that replacement of the straight slide may also need to be considered. Jill will contact the company that installed the original equipment to gather information and options. Eric will block access to the slide to ensure it cannot be used until a solution is identified.

Andy will obtain pricing for repairs to the dugouts on the large baseball field.

18th Street Park

Repairs or replacement of the turf on the small upper playground were discussed. Jill will follow up on options, although the project is likely to be considered in a future year due to other priorities.

Andy will also obtain pricing for repairs to the dugouts on the large baseball field.

Old Town Lake

No new business was reported.

Leases

Matt will meet with Sharon to discuss updates to the lease ordinance, including previously discussed rental and cancellation policy considerations.

Tournaments

Several tournament dates have been requested for next year. The Board discussed that the number of requested dates exceeds the number of tournaments the softball organization is willing to host. It was noted that concessions could potentially remain closed for some events if necessary.

Memorial Bench

Gary Matthews attended the meeting and requested a memorial bench be installed near the horseshoe pits at 18th Street Park. The Park Board was supportive of the request but would like to establish a standardized bench style for future memorial installations. The benches previously used are no longer available. Benches recently installed elsewhere in town were discussed as a possible option. Jill will follow up with photographs and pricing, including the cost of plaque installation.

Picnic Tables

Rich will meet with the Branchville group regarding the possibility of constructing replacement picnic tables. A design will need to be provided, and consideration must be given to how materials and completed tables would be transported and by whom. The Board agreed this project may be better suited for the winter months when other park responsibilities are reduced.

Events

The Ferdinand Folk Fest is scheduled for September 19 at 18th Street Park. ADA ramps are expected to be installed within the next week, weather permitting.

Eric's Updates

Eric reported that signs installed at the soccer field parking lots have been effective.

There have been instances of individuals sleeping in park shelter houses. The Ferdinand Police Department is monitoring the situation in an effort to prevent further occurrences.

Matt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Andy seconded and all were in favor. The meeting ended at 6:00 PM.

The next meeting is October 14, 2026, at 4:30 PM at Town Hall.

Minutes submitted on September 15, 2026


Jill Schipp