

HARLAN PARKS & RECREATION BOARD – August 11, 2026

The Harlan Parks & Recreation Board met on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, at 12:06 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.

Present: Nic Christensen, Todd Berndt, Scott Petersen

Present Electronically: Troy Schaben, Jenney Kelly

Absent: Ladonna Havick, Jeff Moser

Also Present: Tim Miller, Ashley Schleis, Gervas Mgonja, Maya Kenkel, 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 July 14, 2026, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Report – updates provided by Tim Miller

The pond at Pioneer Park has algae bloom, but Miller is waiting to spray due to the proximity of the previous spray.

- River Access – There are fifteen (15) working days left. The boat ramp is completely poured. Still need to do more grading. Today is miscellaneous cleanup and, if there's time, forming the entrance. Fence posts will be done on Wednesday and Thursday. Fencing will be done next week by Klein Fence Co. HMU is potholing. With the riprap, the Department cannot mow or spray the area, so Miller wants to do a sidewalk filled in with gravel after River Access is completed. Nothing is budgeted for River Access 26-27.
- Pool – closed, leaks, samples, inspection – It was a successful year. Pool closed for the season August 9, 2026, at 5:00 P.M., and they are backflushing fitters. Because the pool drains into the Nishnabotna River, the chlorine levels should be as close to zero as possible for draining. The levels are currently in the acceptable range, but the department is giving more time for the levels to decrease further.

Miller expressed appreciation for having the best group of lifeguards this year—they showed up, worked, cleaned, and had no drama. All but one lifeguard will get incentive pay. Kudos were given to Jill, Tela, and Ari. The benefit of having adult lifeguards was noted.

The pool season closing and setting the closing date was discussed. Berndt offered the possibility of delaying setting the closing date until later in the season. Miller noted that the date needs to be set before pool passes go on sale. The board members and City received pushback on the closing date, but Miller noted staffing issues due to sports practice, State Fair, and college students as a factor that prevented the pool from remaining open later.

It is unclear where the pool is leaking. Tony is diving down to patch different leaks every week. Lack of backing may be a factor. The painters started today and will return to redo all the caulking with backing. The caulking and backing should be under warranty.

Both samples came back absent from E. coli.

There were two (2) violations noted on the inspection: lack of removal, signs, or covers on the starting blocks during general use periods and lack of labeling of flow direction on the pool drains. Miller noted that the drains have never been marked, and it is the first time being penalized for it.

- Trees – There has been one tree at Jaycee Park and one tree at Little George Park taken down—the stumps have been ground. There are some trees to remove in the dog park, so it will be closed for a couple days to spray and complete that.
- Water leaks – The drinking fountain at Beebee Park has been fixed. The department is working on running new water lines at Monogram Foods JJ Jensen Sports Complex.
- Cameras – The Dream Playground cameras are working and viewable on phone and computer. City Hall has full access to all cameras, and Miller has access to all cameras for the Parks Department. Miller is working on quotes for cameras at Monogram Foods JJ Jensen Sports Complex.

Monthly Financials – Pool & Parks (Information Only) – The July reports did not run correctly; Kenkel will email the updated reports.

RAGBRAI – The day of and day after went very well. Most of the parks were as clean or cleaner than when they arrived. The pool got a ton of compliments. The RV drivers got a little hairy.

Disc Golf Update – All the pads on the north side of the crick have been poured. South side will be poured tomorrow. All the baskets are in. Will need to go in and tear out anything unneeded and add posts. The project should be done by the end of August.

Cyclone Tennis Courts – RFP Approval – The courts need resurfacing and re-painting—it is becoming a safety concern. There is a bid for temporary pickleball nets and lines. The other bid is for one tennis court and two permanent pickleball courts. The Harlan Community School District has discussed no longer needing to use the city facilities for tennis, but they continue to use the city facilities. A tennis coach is looking into a USTA grant to expand the high school tennis courts. Miller may connect with the coaches in addition to the AD. Bids are due September 10, 2026, at 1:00 P.M.

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

Grandma B's Dream Playground – Everything is up and running. Restrooms were ready the Friday before RAGBRAI. There is a meeting tonight to set the ribbon cutting—it will likely be a Sunday afternoon.

Parks Planning Document (Update & Discussion) – Matthew Worthey will be on the October agenda to discuss the skating/inline hockey rink proposal.

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

Miller noted strict deadlines and needing funding in place as reasons for likely being ineligible at this time.

- 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: The ribbon cutting for Monogram Foods JJ Jensen Sports Complex is at 4:00 P.M. today.

The next meeting will be on Friday, September 11, 2026, at 2:30 pm (Zoom) 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.