HARLAN PARKS & RECREATION BOARD – October 13, 2026

The Harlan Parks & Recreation Board met on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 12:03 P.M. in the City Council Chambers.
Present: Nic Christensen, Todd Berndt, Scott Petersen, Jeff Moser, Ladonna Havick
Present Electronically: Troy Schaben, Jenney Kelly
Absent:
Also Present: Tim Miller, Ashley Schleis, Gervas Mgonja, Maya Kenkel, Justin Harper, Matt Worthey

The meeting was called to order by Berndt. It was moved by Havick 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 September 14, 2026, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Matt Worthey – Inline Roller Hockey Rink Presentation – Matt asked what he needs to do to work with the City of Harlan. Miller explained that an important aspect is the scope of current projects and the City's capacity to manage additional projects, in both number and size. It was mentioned that recent projects such as Grandma B's Dream Playground and River Access were budgeted for many years before their completion, the Disc Golf Course project was completely fundraiser funded, and the upcoming Cyclone Tennis Courts has been budgeted for.
Key considerations from the presentation include regulation sizes if there is interest in hosting events and the biggest cost being concrete and sport tile. Sport tile samples were presented—it is modular and helps protect the concrete with its UV protection and drainage. Modularity makes replacement of damaged sections easy.
Possible locations were discussed. Miller noted a lack of available (flat) green space—current space needs to remain green space. The North Park green space is not an option. Matt and Havick discussed a multiuse court like the one in Des Moines. Berndt expressed interest in multiuse. It was concluded that location and funding are the biggest hurdles with timing playing a role.

Disc Golf Course Naming – Proposal tabled pending review of the name rights policy.

Disc Golf Course Signage — one large sign and tee signs – Proposal tabled pending course naming process. Nameless temporary hole signs will be installed for the remainder of the season.

Superintendent Report – updates provided by Tim Miller

- Pool water pipes were tested—no leaks detected.
- Still doing some mowing and cutting down trees. Plans to spray today.
- River Access held up well during the heavy rains. The ramp is muddy three quarters of the way up from the rising river levels.
- Received a tree-planting grant. Over one hundred trees are planned now, but the exact number may fluctuate. Tree planting day will be November 10, 2026, at 1:00 PM. Volunteers are needed—there will be a public Facebook post. It was suggested to reach out to school groups such as FFA for the volunteer opportunity. Discussed planting fruit trees for community accessibility.
- Winterizing has started with some areas completed. Monogram Foods JJ Jensen Sports Complex will be done this week except for the soccer restrooms. Park restrooms will be done by Halloween or when there are consecutive days below freezing.
- JJ Jensen water line has an issue with the pump on the well. Alpha & Omega is working on it.
- Cyclone Tennis Courts project will begin in spring 2027.
- Budget is being put together for upcoming year. It will be a tight year with the 2% tax cap.

Monthly Financials – Pool & Parks (Information Only) – Discussed confusion with skid loader from months ago leading to paying an invoice twice. A refund will be issued.

River Access – Project is 99% done. Ditch will be seeded after November 10. Seeding was completed but partially washed away during the heavy rains. River Access is available for use, but it will not be publicized until trash cans are delivered—they have been on backorder.

Parks Planning Document (Update & Discussion) – Some updates have been made but needs more updates.

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: Havick expressed disappointment with the plaques not being on the benches yet and with the quality of the signs. When she reached out, she was redirected repeatedly without resolution.
Received positive feedback on the ribbon cutting.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10, 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.