

MINUTES
City of Norwich, Parks Commission
April 28, 2026

Present: Chairperson C. Sprague, Comm. K. Thompson, Comm. B. McCracken, Comm. D. Phelps, Comm. T. French, Alderwoman N. Allaire

Absent: Comm. S. Lambert, Comm. M. Kirsch

Also Present: A. Testani

Correspondence: The Chirstian Fellowship Softball League submitted a reservation request for the ball fields at Weiler Park from 5:30 to 8:30 starting May 4th through August 10th.

Meeting Minutes: Comm McCracken made a motion to accept March's meeting minutes, seconded by T. French. The motion was approved by all.

Old Business:

LaBella Associates is in the process of completing the application for the NYS Plays Grant for Weiler Park. The application process opened May 1st.

No new update on the MPR Grant for Bruchhausen Park.

The assessment of Kurt Beyer was completed on 4/20. Kevin Schaefer from Aquattica spent close to two hours inspecting all aspects of the pool. We are waiting for the results of the assessment.

No update on the replacement of the fountain head for the fountain in Gordon Park.

The light pole at the ice rink / pickleball courts has been replaced. We are waiting for Westcott Electric to repair the wiring.

East Park has been turned over to the county for maintenance. The county started this month with mowing.

We are waiting on a response from the neighbor at Kurt Beyer Pool regarding the remaining trees along the fence before repairing the fence.

The commission reviewed the updated Facilities Reservation Request form. Additional changes to be made were to add a fee for recurring events. If group wants to reserve the parks for multiple dates, additional charges should be applied. The commission also agreed to add a line stating that the city reserves the right to charge an additional fee if excessive garbage was left at the park that needed cleaning by our DPW. With the changes the Comm. B. McCracken made a motion to present the update request form to the City Council. The motion was seconded by Comm. T. French and approved by all.

New Business:

Comm. Sprague informed the group that Friends of the Park has received funding to start work at Auburn Park. The work will be done in phases with replacement of the playground equipment for 2 to 5 years being down first. Members of the Parks Commission have asked to be a part of the selection process for the playground equipment, along with neighbor input.

A discussion of alcohol in the parks prompted a review of the city codes on alcohol beverages. The commission believes a review of the City Code concerning alcohol beverages should be done. A motion was made by Comm. B McCracken, second by Comm. D. Phelps for the council to review the wording in Chapter 136 of the city code. Motion was approved by all.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Sprague reported on the Friends of Parks willingness to move forward with improvements to Auburn Park.

Commissioner's Reports:

C. Sprague asked about the tree down at South Broad St Park. He also mentioned two lights along the path at Kurt Beyer are flickering.

A. Testani reported vandalism at Kurt Beyer Park. One picnic table along with a dog waste station needs to be replaced.

Budget: No update to the budget.

Next meeting: May 26th at 7:00 PM in the city offices. Depending on the weather we may meet at one of the parks.

Adjournment: T. French made a motion to adjourn at 8:35 PM, seconded by T. Frenc. Approved by all.