

MINUTES
City of Norwich, Parks Commission
March 24, 2025

Present: Chairperson C. Sprague, Comm. K. Thompson, Comm. M. Kirsch, Comm. T. French

Absent: Comm. D. Phelps, Comm. S. Lambert, Comm. B. McCracken, Alderwoman N. Allaire

Also Present: A. Testani, Dan Thompson, Andrew Thompson

Correspondence: The Norwich Family YMCA has requested to use one of the ballfields at Weiler Park starting 3/31 through 6/27 for the use of softball and tee ball practices and games. They would like to use the field Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30 and Saturday mornings from 9:00 to noon. We also received a request from Norwich Little League asking to use one of the fields on Tuesdays from 5:15 to 7:30 for practices. A. Testani explained to Norwich Little League that the softball request had been submitted prior to their request, that softball's request would be honored first. We also received a notice that the Chenango Child Advocacy Center will be using South Broad Street Park for their walkathon on October 3rd.

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

Old Business:

Adoption of Parks Master Plan – At the public hearing held on March 18th to adopt the plan as part of the city's comprehensive plan, three residents spoke up in favor of adopting. The council voted to adopt the plan as part of the city's comprehensive plan.

The replace fountain head for the fountain in Gordon Park has been ordered. No word on when we expect delivery.

New Business:

The city has entered into an agreement with LaBella Associates to complete a NYS Plays Grant application, along with providing a conceptual design for the replacement of playground equipment at Weiler Park. Weiler Park was selected as it is in an economically disadvantaged area of the city. This puts the city in a unique situation to receive additional points on the application that other communities may not receive. While other changes may occur at Weiler Park in the future, replacing the existing equipment would not impact on those changes.

The city has also signed an agreement with Aquattica for the assessment of Kurt Beyer Pool. The assessment is scheduled for April 20th.

On Monday March 16, one of the lighting poles at the ice rink / pickleball courts had fallen over. A new pole has been ordered. Westcott Electric has been contacted to replace the wiring.

The commission discussed the need to update the Parks Commission Facilities Reservation Request Form. The current form allows for the reservation of the ball fields, skating rink, tennis courts and lights at Weiler Park. The commission feels this should be expanded to include the pavilions at all the parks. The commission also discussed the need to increase the reservation fee from the current \$25 to \$50. The fee has been the same for years. It is also considerably lower than any other park in our area. A motion was made to move these recommendations to council by T. French, seconded by K. Thompson. Approved by all.

Chairman's Report:

Nothing to report.

Commissioner's Reports:

T. French reported a branch down in Bruchhausen Park. Along with an excessive amount of garbage in South Broad St Park.

C. Sprague asked about using the street sweeper to clean the parks parking lots, especially Kurt Beyer's parking lot.

D. Phelps sent an email asking about using inmates at the county jail to help clean the parks. A. Testani will explore this option with the DPW Superintendent.

Budget: A. Testani presented YTD 2026 budgets to actual comparison. Two large expenditures this month have been the downpayment for the new fountain head and the purchase of the lighting pole.

Next meeting: April 28th at 7:00 PM in the city offices. Depending on the weather we may meet at one of the parks.

Adjournment: A motion was made by T. French to adjourn at 8:10 PM, seconded by M. Kirsh. Approved by all.