

DEXTER PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Meeting Minutes— September 3, 2025

**Members Present:** Jim LaBrot, Matt Myers, Marissa Mills, Adam Sadler, Chris Warren,

**Park Staff Present:** Jamie Rowe

**Meeting called to order:** 12:01 pm

**Minutes:** Minutes from the April and July meetings. No additions or corrections to the minutes

**Motion:** was made by Chris Warren to accept minutes as written

**Second:** was made by Adam Sadler to accept minutes as written

**Motion Carried:** all in favor

**Citizens' Input:** none

**Housekeeping:** none

**Committee Reports:**

**A-Playground committee** – Upcoming fundraiser this Saturday with the cross-country team. The committee sells shirts and splits profits with the high school cross-country team.

**B-Trail Committee** –Trail project 006 update plans are being put together for review, and hopefully, we will be able to start the right-of-way phase soon. Trail project 007 update working with Walmart on plans for the extension of the culvert and entrance on the southeast side and working on plans.

**C-Doq Park Committee** – Continuing maintenance at the park, filling in holes. The department also hauled 3 loads of dirt to the park to put in low areas. The committee is working on the Barktober Fest fundraiser.

**D-Tree Board** –no report

**Aquatic & Recreation Report:**

**Recreation –**

BASEBALL: no report

BASKETBALL: Registration is open, and the deadline is September 16<sup>th</sup>.

FOOTBALL: League begins play this weekend. Player totals: 78

SOFTBALL: no report

TRACK: no report

FALL SOCCER: Games start this weekend on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Player totals: K = 47 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> = 89 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> = 62 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> = 48

VOLLEYBALL (YOUTH/WVB/COED): Games this season begin on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Player totals 53 (4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade)

**AQUATIC:**

- The pool is closed and drained for the season. The department will work on winterization according to the schedule.

**PARK EVENTS:**

BLOOD DRIVE—JUNE 19, 2025

GRILLE IT UP—JULY 12, 2025

BACK TO SCHOOL POOL PARTY—JULY 31, 2025

HALLOWEEN HAPPENING-OCTOBER 31, 2025

LIGHT IT UP-MONTH OF DECEMBER

## DEPARTMENT REPORT:

- The department grant update:  
2 DNR grants—both awarded for trail work at Eden Park and PIP at West Park playground. The PIP has been completed the playground was reopened on September 2<sup>nd</sup> to the public. The cypress trees around the playground were cut down because of the cypress knees. There were between 15-20 knees in the pea-gravel that were removed. In an effort to protect the new pour-in-place and the walking trail at West Park, the trees needed to be removed. Installed a concrete curb around the playground before the company came to install the pip. Work completed by Rick Shipman \$10,904 total for the curbing. The pip total \$85,738.30. Working on reimbursement for this grant.

AG—This grant is complete. We have received reimbursement \$36,490.07

MDC- kayak dock at the fish pond—the dock has been installed, and the additional work from Board Safe is complete. Totals for this project \$52,403.12. The CAP agreement with MDC for the approval of kayaks on the lake—the department has completed the sidewalk part of the project (waiting on bills for the total on the sidewalk) and is waiting on MDC for a media date. Working on reimbursement for this grant also.

- Discussion of Project List items included and are not in any order full-time maintenance person, building to store equipment by our shop area, replacement of the 1997 backhoe, the addition of a 1 ton with dump bed, new pickup trucks, light boon trail, dpr gym addition, the addition of shelter (#3) at west park, temporary fencing for ballfields and line/outfield fencing at the complex, turf installation on 2 fields at the complex. Review the pool repair list.
- There was some vandalism at the soccer field on the North big field; someone cut donuts on the field. This will be a problem for the rest of the season, requiring the ruts to be filled with dirt before each game and monitored during practice.
- Farmers Market is winding down with the last one of the season on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. The market seems to be going well, and the location at East Park seems favorable to the public.
- Met with Matt Hicks with Bryne & Jones, they were in town doing some work at the high school, and wanted to look at our sports complex, and are working on a quote for turfing the B and C fields.
- The Community Garden has had a successful season, giving away 537.75 pounds of produce to the public. We have planted pumpkins we will see if they produce any to give away at Halloween.
- Storm damage update: Sugar Plum drainage work has been bid, and the drainage work has been completed. The playground has been put out for bid, and the recommendations have been sent to FEMA and are currently in the mitigation stage. We are waiting to hear back from them.
- The concession trailer is almost complete, and the plan is to use it for soccer to provide concessions and be able to use it if needed at other events/sports.
- Nate Watkins has turned in his notice. His last day present at work with the department was July 14<sup>th</sup>. Brooke Smith has turned in her notice. Her last day present at work with the department was August 15<sup>th</sup>. Jobs were posted yesterday on the MPRA site, city site, and park social media.
- The grille it up event has been put on hold for 2026. The amount of time the event takes to make successful is just not available with the current staff.
- Brad Jarrell has requested to name the Babe Baseball Field after AJ Nugent. The board has been asked to consider this request.

**Motion:** was made by Marissa to table this topic to give members time to think about it and discuss at a later time.

**Second:** was made by Chris Warren on this topic

**Motion Carried:** all in favor

- The department has been working on programs, working on sports fields, and wrapping up grant projects. The department spent 43.5 hours working on the soccer grounds to have them ready for practice and the soccer season. This included mowing, bagging, and trimming grass and moving goals.
- Work is continuing at Eden Park. The clearing and removal of the pond levee, shaping the area by Mr. Morgan, is complete. The trail has been laid out. The department will begin addressing the drainage and getting the area ready for the trail material to be installed. The department has paid \$22,680 for clearing (\$15,000 was budgeted in the 2024-2025 budget for this), and there will be shared costs with the water department for moving the sewer that runs through the middle of the park.
- Repair work has been completed on Arvin Road for the trail. One was where the semi truck damaged the railing at one mile road and Arvin road. The other is a repair, where the vehicle went off the road and struck the bridge. Part of this repair is also to fix the sinking concrete and where the dirt has washed out. Brown Construction completed the work. The totals for the repair \$8,500 (2024-2025 budget) and \$26,000 (2025-2026 budget).
- The pickleball court project is complete. The job totaled \$46,927.23. There have been some suggestions made to add a 4-foot fence to separate courts, add benches, add a water fountain, and add a sidewalk from the parking lot to the courts.

**DPR Gym Task Force:**

- Design Alliance architects have completed a plan for the gym expansion project.
- The next big step will be developing a plan for securing payment.

**New Business:**

- none

**Membership Participation:**

- Marissa asked about the playground committee doing the bunt cake fundraiser again this year and if it would be the same time as last year.
- Chris asked that the numbers from the turf be brought to the next meeting to look at, to get an idea of what installing turf on 2 fields at the complex will be.
- General discussion from everyone on staff and dividing the sports and workload to retain employees. Discussion of how to achieve competitive wages for the jobs in place was also discussed. Noted that wages for existing positions are lower than those in comparable towns, as discussed in previous meetings. A starting point outline will be emailed with the minutes. Members were going to ask around about ideas and encourage people to apply for jobs at the department.

**Other:** None

**Motion** was made by Marissa to adjourn the meeting

**Second** was made by Chris

**Motion Carried** all in favor

**Adjourn:** 1:45pm

Next meeting scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> @ noon

