



RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION
March 19th, 2026 5:30 PM MEETING MINUTES

RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION –

In attendance: Jeanette Blackwell, Leslie Spatola, Betsy Bielefield, Andrea Dallas, Felicia Goodwine, Tami Kapaczewski, Rogers Pylant, Sowgol Zakarian,
Absent: Kristin Jensen, Harold Panciera, Dan Deconti,
Staff: Cathy Lechowicz, Director

AGENDA:

Call Meeting to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 5:32pm.

Public Hearing:

No members of the public in attendance.

Approval of the Minutes:

Commissioner Kapaczewski made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 19th, 2026 meeting minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Spatola. Approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Update:

Director Lechowicz provided an overview on the budget process and the challenges this year. Councilwoman Blackwell provided additional context for this year's budget. Discussed reviewing the budget narrative submitted to the mayor to gain further insight into the departmental needs and challenges. Director Lechowicz highlighted advocating for standardization of fees, across departments, to ensure equitable revenue generation. A brief questions and answers took place. During which commissioner Goodwine excused herself from the remainder of the commission meeting.

Sports Grant Packages:

Director Lechowicz followed up with the commissioners who had questions regarding the sports grant package that was submitted to them at last month's meeting. Additional questions gathered regarding the sports grant will receive relevant follow up. Package will be presented to the common council in July. An email copy will be sent out to the commission for further review. A discussion took place about potential grants options to youth sports programs, including promoting girls' basketball and volleyball.

OLD BUSINESS:

Department Updates:

Director Lechowicz shared department updates with the commission. For the recreation division, onboarding the new Manager of Recreation. Transitioned from paper to electronic application for employment. Gave a brief update on the employment process for summer camp. Highlighted a great interest in employment for summer camp counselors. Also discussed some facility changes within the recreation department. For the senior division, highlighted great interested and demand in programming. Also noted the state grant funded programming has been well received, including the nutrition counseling and fresh produce for those in the congregate meals program.

Manager of Recreation Position:

Director Lechowicz gave update on the job posting. A candidate has been hired for the position of Manager of Recreation, Bonnie Daley.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Director Lechowicz followed up with Wesleyan regarding the tennis court. The repairs that need to be done are weather dependent. They are committed to the repair work once the weather allows.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Kapaczewski made a motion to adjourn, seconded by commissioner Bielefied. Approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:41pm.