

**CITY OF VIROQUA
PARK & REC COMMITTEE
MAY 5, 2026**

1. Roll call:

The Park & Rec Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 by Steve Willis at City Hall and via Zoom. Members present were Steve Willis, Todd Spaeth, Seth McClurg, Cyndy Hubbard, and AJ Bergum. Also present were Lori Polhamus, Nate Torres, Kale Proksch, Krista Browne, Richard Running, Sonya Newenhouse, Alycann Taylor, Bill Hoffland, and Kim Littel.

2. First period for public comment – Sonya Newenhouse stated the area by Washington Park was identified as an area for future housing during the Housing Advisory Committee and Plan Commission for the Comprehensive Plan and would request the city wait to sell and have volunteers to clear out the wooded area.

3. Approval of committee minutes from March 3, 2026- *Motion by AJ Bergum/second by Cyndy Hubbard to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.*

4. Update on CIP equipment purchases with possible action (additional mower) – Kale is requesting the remaining balance in the CIP of the \$19,241.10 to use towards an additional zero turn lawn mower. He explained how it is used in the various departments and the need. *Motion by Cyndy Hubbard/second by AJ Bergum to research and get info on zero turn mowers to bring back to the next meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.*

5. Update with possible action on Eckhart Playground project – all play structures have been delivered and are being stored at Nelson Ag Center. The composite pieces are not here yet. They have a leadership meeting tomorrow to discuss the fundraising update. The Lion's Club is working on the volunteers and they need to look at the tool situation yet. GFL is helping with the tipping fees and removal for savings. There wasn't any interest in the purchase of the equipment from the park from the RFP. The park will close 7/13/2026 and be fenced off to take down the structures.

6. Discussion with possible action on Washington Park land – there is 2.7 acres and 1.6 acres across the road to the north. The priorities of the outdoor rec plan were reviewed and clearing out the wooded area was on there which we currently do not maintain. They discussed this with Vernon Trails and the Friends of the Parks group to see if they would help as this could be a possible trail head if it was cleaned up or have additional park amenities. They reviewed various options for the sale of portions of the property as the abutting landowners are willing to have a survey done and pay \$10,000/acre and clean it up. Vernon Trails is willing to partner with the city to find the best options. *Motion by AJ Bergum/second by Cyndy Hubbard to explore options for the cleanup of Washington Park land with cooperation with Vernon Trails. Voice vote four in favor, one opposed. Motion passed. Todd Spaeth voting no.*

7. Discussion with possible action on selection of firm for design services on old city hall project – *Motion by Todd Spaeth/second by AJ Bergum to allow this agenda item to go directly to Council for lack of time. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.*

8. Park & Rec Director updates (non-action item)

a. Parks update – at the end of May the summer staff will be starting

b. Recreation update – they ordered t-shirts through Games People Play and hats through Sports World. They have 66 minor league and 70 major league registrations. Overall have 619 registrations this year. The staff is all filled except for the golf instructor.

9. Second period for public comment – Sonya Newenhouse is willing to volunteer on the trails as well.

10. Adjournment – *Motion by AJ Bergum/second by Todd Spaeth to adjourn @ 6:01 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.*

Minutes respectively submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk