

STOW PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, January 12, 2026 – 4:00 PM

Minutes of the Stow Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting held Monday, January 12 at Stow Community & Senior Center.

Members Present: Nicholas Stoiber, Annie Hanson Hilaire, Jeff Datkuliak

Members Absent: Patrick Crawford, Bob Pontius

Others Present: John Pribonic, Mayor; Joe Vojtko, Fox Den; Linda Nahrstedt, Director; Anne Baranek, Supervisor; Kathy Lewis, Supervisor; Chris Sheridan, Supervisor; Kristin Spicer, Marketing Specialist; Tracie McNutt, Marketing Specialist; Cyle Feldman, Councilman; Elisa Gargarella, Sabertooth; Marissa McClellan, Sabertooth

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Hanson Hilaire called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Datkuliak moved to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mr. Stoiber. All were in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nothing to report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Stoiber nominated Ms. Hanson Hilaire as the Chairperson for 2026, seconded by Mr. Datkuliak. All were in favor. Ms. Hanson Hilaire nominated Mr. Stoiber as the Vice Chairperson for 2026, seconded by Mr. Datkuliak. All were in favor. Ms. Hanson Hilaire nominated Mr. Datkuliak as the Planning Commission designee, seconded by Mr. Stoiber. All were in favor.

SUMMARY

The Parks and Recreation board meeting on January 12, 2026, covered several key points. The board discussed the public art master plan with Elisa Gargarella and Marissa McClellan from Sabertooth. They emphasized the need for a cohesive public art strategy, including zoning laws and funding. The Senior Center reported increased engagement with 551 sign-ups for various programs. Fox Den Golf Course saw a 10% revenue increase to \$2.55 million. Upcoming events include a Lego Day and an Enchanted Afternoon. The board also discussed the need for consistent signage and branding across city facilities.

ACTION ITEMS

- Publish and distribute a senior program survey to collect participant feedback and preferences to aid in future scheduling and programming.
- Complete production and install the new City Center, playground, pond, and amphitheater signage (consistent design) with installation targeted for spring or early summer 2026.
- Mr. Vojtko offered to help Parks and Recreation with possibly a winter golf lesson program.
- Have Parks and Recreation and other stakeholders look over the draft of the public art master plan to gain their feedback for incorporation into the plan.
- Populate the active adult calendar on the parks website and provide training for staff to maintain it and review website analytics quarterly to keep content current.
- Design the postcard for the Mental Health Coalition mailing and deliver the final artwork for printing.
- Start with new campground reservation software in February. Complete staff training on the new system before the start of the new camping season in April.

LIBRARY REPORT

- Nothing to report

SABERTOOTH PUBLIC ART PRESENTATION

- Elisa Gargarella introduced herself and her business partner Marissa McClellan, explaining their background in public art.
- Marissa explained their program at the University of Akron, teaching students the process of public art.
- Elisa and Marissa discussed their experience in creating public master plans and training programs for public art.
- Ms. Nahrstedt explained the role of the Parks and Recreation department in promoting public art.
- The marketing department is responsible for promoting all programs, including public art.
- The importance of maintaining and upkeeping public art was emphasized.
- Discussed on the need for a strategic plan to implement public art in parks.
- The process of creating and implementing public art projects was outlined, including calls for artists and evaluation.
- Discussed on the importance of cohesive signage and branding for public art projects.
- The need for a clear vision and consistent branding for public art projects was highlighted.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Presentation of Annual Report

- Ms. Nahrstedt provided an update on the Parks and Recreation department, including new programs and the new AMP facility.
- There will not be concerts on the green this year in order to prepare for the AMP pop up events.
- The surface at S.O.A.R. will be replaced this Spring or Summer.

Programs and Events Update

- The CSC reported increased engagement and new programs like the walking club and exercise classes
- The board discussed the importance of maintaining and improving existing programs and facilities.
- Upcoming events include a Lego Day and an Enchanted Afternoon.

Fox Den Golf Course Update

- The Fox Den Golf Course reported significant growth in revenue and new initiatives like top tracer and increased memberships.
- Mr. Vojtko presented golf rates to the board for 2025 and proposed golf rates for 2026 at Fox Den.
- Mr. Datkuliak made a motion to approve the 2026 Fox Den Golf Course rates; Mr. Stoiber seconded. All were in favor.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

- Several new businesses are coming to Stow. Looking to break ground for Chick-fil-A in April 2026.

GENERAL DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Nothing to report

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Stoiber and seconded by Mr. Datkuliak at 5:45 pm. All were in favor.

Annie Hanson Hiliare, Chairperson
Parks and Recreation Board

Deanna Davis, Secretary
Parks and Recreation Department