

UTICA PARKS AND RECREATION

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, July 8th 2025

Time: 7:05 pm

Meeting called to order by: Mat Volzke

President called Open Meeting Act is located at the entrance of the auditorium.

ROLE CALL, IN ATTENDANCE

Mat Volzke, Alicia Rathje, Erica Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from the previous meeting (June 10) were read.

Motion to approve by: Rathje Seconded by: Smith

Smith	Volzke	Rathje
Y	Y	Y

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for today's meeting is read.

Motion to approve by: Smith Seconded by: Rathje

Smith	Volzke	Rathje
Y	Y	Y

REPORTS

Receive Reports

- Utica Village Board

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Public Comments - None

OLD BUSINESS

UTICA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROJECT

Mulch – Village is looking into a Grant to help offset the cost of the mulch

No Vote by Park/Rec Bord needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

CONCESSION STAND/RESTROOM AT THE BALLFIELD

Waiting for supplies bids needed for Contractor bids

Seward County Gives money has been received and allocated

No Vote by Park/Rec Bord needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

UTICA DAYS 2026

A- Nothing for 2025

B- Fun raisers

C- Games

D- Food and Drink

E- Events and Activities

No Vote by Park/Rec Bord needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

GRANTS

A- Poet Grant Update – tennis court sidewalk did not get approved

B- Grants for Trees – no update

C- Other Available Grants to pursue - none

No Vote by Park/Rec Bord needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

UTICA PARKS AND REC LOGO

Waiting for Bronson

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

TREES

A- Tree City Application – Alicia and Kenzie to ask village to put this on Village Board next meeting agenda

B- Publish Tree Plotter Data on Village Website – also to add to August Village Board Meeting

No Vote by Park/Rec Bord needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO VILLAGE BOARD

A- Seward County Gives money has been allocated

B- Pool Sonar –

C- Pool Epoxy review – Will need to do a review

No Vote by Park/Rec Bord needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

POOL SONAR TO FIND WATER LEAK

Village board requests Park and Rec Board permission to hire sonar scan to identify water leak if possible. Park and Reck board requested to be in attendance. Once date is identified a date, one of the board will attend.

Motion to approve by: Smith Seconded by: Rath

Smith	Volzke	Rathje
Y	Y	Y

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS TO VILLAGE BOARD

1. What is written in the Village Ordinance regarding trees that lie on private property along the right of way? Sharon sent you a copy of the ordinance
 1. What is the distance of that right-of-way? From the center of the street it is 33' to the property line.
 2. Who's responsibility is it to plant, trim, and eventually remove trees within that distance? The property owner is responsible for maintaining the right of way. Mowing, trimming trees and sidewalk.
 3. What power does the village have on those trees? An ordinance says they need to be trimmed 15' above the street and 7.5 above the sidewalk. The village can

cut branches lower than that. We can send notice to owner to abate or remove dead or diseased trees.

4. Are there any funds available for private or public use to trim, maintain, or replace trees within that right-of-way? There is the LB 840 fund. People could apply for a grant from that. We haven't used it this way yet, so we would have to make some new decisions. Owner pays part and get a grant for part
1. Can the Village publish the 2019 and 2025 Tree reports to the village website, under Parks and Recreation? Yes – to be done.
2. Can the village also publish on the Parks and Recreation website the Recommended Trees for planning in this area (the Tree speaker mentioned they have a list) Yes. You type it up and we will put it on the website.
3. If we provide information, can the village add to the water bills public notices on EAB (identification of ash trees, cost for treatment of EAB and other useful information) What is the desired size (in inches or cm) that this information should fit into? We can add a separate page in the water bills if you design it.
4. For Future fundraisers for the following projects, is there an easy way (such as a QR code) that the public can use to donate specifically to one of the following: QR Code to the Government website has been provided to the Parks and Rec Board.
5. If the Parks And Recreation Board want to survey the public, can the government website and the water bill be used to distribute a public resident survey? If it is a single page we can add it to the water bills. If not a note can be done as to where to find the survey. We can put it on the website. Some survey's have been done in the last year or so. You may want to look at the results of some of them. We don't get very many back, so it may not be a good cross section of the public

No Motion needed. FYI only.

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith

Volzke

Rathje

NEW BUSINESS

VILLAGE BOARD REPORT

A- Seward County Gives money has been allocated

B- Pool Sonar –

C- Pool Epoxy review – Will need to do a review

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

OTHER PUBLIC AREA ACCESS IN NEED OF ATTENTION

Wheelchair access through the pool. Current remedy is to open the chain link fence.

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

END OF SUMMER FUN DAY HOSTED BY PARKS AND REC BOARD

Swim day and pool area games that used to be during Utica Days.

Free Swim day, Ice cream, Kona Ice, Water Balloon Fight outside the pool, must be biodegradable, Sponges, Movie night

Approve the park/rec involvement and set a date

Budget? Almost none. Volunteer/donation

Pool Account might have some money.

Preferred date August 9, 2nd backup date August 2

Breakfast Truck, volunteers for hot dogs, Dinner Truck, Night Movie

Egg Toss watermelon eating contest, Dunk Tank,

Bounce House Rentals; :UBO involvement

Erica –Ask Fire department if they want to be involved – water fight?

abinmommy@gmail.com send food truck list

Will call and try to arrange food trucks, 25 dollar permit per truck

Mat – Brainstorm games activities all day long, Centennial School involvement Back to school Bash? St Pauls?

Alicia – Movie Set up – Volunteers for hot lunch, and Advertisements, bounce house rentals;

Alicia to reach out to Kayla Anderson and UBO

Alicia to put fliers out for other towns as end of summer/back to school bash

Add Hoc meeting must give Rita 48 hours notice.

Motion to approve by: Smith Seconded by: Rathje

Smith	Volzke	Rathje
Y	Y	Y

Next meeting will be held at July 22nd 7:00 pm

Motion to adjourn was made by Volzke at 8:01pm, Seconded by: Smith

Smith	Volzke	Rathje
Y	Y	Y