

UTICA PARKS AND RECREATION

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, September 9th 2025

Time: 7:03 pm

Meeting called to order by: Mat Volzke

Mat stated that the Open Meetings Act is located at the back of the auditorium.

ROLE CALL, IN ATTENDANCE

Mat Volzke, Alicia Rathje, Erica Smith

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from the previous meeting (July 22nd) 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: Rathje Seconded by: Smith

Smith	Volzke	Rathje
Y	Y	Y

REPORTS

Receive Reports

- Village Report
 - Spending process is being revamped – more information to come
 - Parks and Rec will have up to \$500 from the Parks and Recreation account to use toward events, after approved by McKenzie or Nick.
 - Each village group will receive training for updating their portion of the village website.
 - McKenzie Parr will be less involved in the Parks and Recreation email account, so we will need to keep a close eye on it, and watch out for scams/phishing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Public Comments – None

OLD BUSINESS

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION PROJECT

Poet grant not available. Waiting for a new grant. Exploring other options.

No Vote needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

CONCESSION STAND/RESTROOM

No new information

No Vote needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

GRANTS

No new updates on tree grants

No Vote Needed to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

LOGO

Waiting on Bronson Images. Alicia will now periodically follow up with Bronson Images

No Vote Needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

POOL

Is there anything we can do to improve access to the restrooms? There is money set aside for re-engineering, but we will pause until the fate of the existing pool is decided.

Pool Scan – several areas identified as potential areas that are leaking. Scan person recommended that we contact a pool engineer for next step. The engineer will help identify the source of the leak.

Epoxy – approved by Village and will be applied by Village Maintenance

Nothing to vote on

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

PARK FUN DAY 2025

Positive feedback received. We are all thankful the Utica Volunteer Fire Department stayed all day. Alicia was reimbursed for part of the cost of the bounce houses.

No Vote Needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

NEW BUSINESS

END OF SUMMER 2026

Began brainstorming potential Parks and Recreation involvement in an End-of-Summer 2026 celebration

Categories to consider:

1. Date
2. Vendors
3. Activities
4. Games
5. Partnerships
6. Schedule around other local events
7. Parade
8. Car show
9. Raffle

Potential partners for the 2026 End Of Summer Bash

- Utica Community Foundation
- Utica Lions Club
- Utica Commercial Club
- Utica Ball Organization
- Utica Legion
- Kiwanis Club of Seward
- Utica Fire Department
- Seward County Sheriffs Office
- Utica Lodge
- Utica Boy Scouts
- Local Youth Groups
- Centennial Public School
- Centennial FFA

- Centennial Alumni Association

Group Homework Requests

- ◊ Bring Ideas for planning next End-Of-Summer event

No Vote Needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

TRUNK OR TREAT 2025

Utica Lions Club is sponsoring.

No Vote Needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

STAFF SAFETY TRAINING

There is an option to have a company come to the village and provide lifeguard training. We will need to run this by the Pool Manager. Revisit this topic after the 1st of the year.

No Vote Needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

WINTER MONTHS PUBLIC INTERACTIONS

Parks and Rec board will brainstorm ideas for fundraising and community events for the winter months. Goals are to raise awareness of Parks and Recreation projects and begin accepting donations.

For next month – bring ideas for events we can sponsor/plan for these months:

November –

December –

January –

February –

March –

April –

Advertise these events in: Seward County Independent, York News Times, all Local Church bulletins, Facebook

No Vote Needed

Motion to approve by:___ Seconded by:___

Smith	Volzke	Rathje

NEXT MEETING AND ADJOURN

Next meeting will be held October 21st at 7:00 pm in the Auditorium

Motion to adjourn was made by Rathje at 7:57pm, Seconded by: Smith

Smith	Volzke	Rathje
Y	Y	Y