

Village of Antioch Park Advisory Board

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

6:30 p.m. Village Hall, 395 Skidmore Dr, Antioch, IL

1. Call to Order

Park Board Weber called the December 17, 2025 regular meeting of the Park Advisory to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. Roll Call

	Present	Absent
Deichsel	<u> X </u>	_____
Hartman	<u> X </u>	_____
Nolan, B.	<u> X </u>	_____
Nolan, S.	<u> X </u>	_____
Olufs	<u> X </u>	_____
Schartz	<u> X </u>	_____
Weber	<u> X </u>	_____
<u>Staff</u>		
Kotloski	<u> X </u>	_____
Ford	<u> X </u>	_____

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Antioch Park Advisory Chair Weber led the Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of Minutes

Hartman/Olufs motion and second to approve the November 19, 2025, Park Advisory minutes.

Vote –

Yes = 5

No = 0

5. Communications

Chairman Weber invited members of the public to provide comments.

Pam Whitaker, of Garys Drive, addressed the Board regarding the planned improvements to Centennial Park, specifically the existing tennis courts. Ms. Whitaker asked for clarification on the current plan and was informed that the existing

tennis courts are scheduled to be renovated and converted into six pickleball courts as part of the Centennial Park project.

Ms. Whitaker referenced the project information included in the September 17 meeting minutes and stated that the original grant concept did not reflect a conversion to pickleball courts. She requested copies of the grant application and design materials submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and asked whether these materials could be made available for public review. Ms. Kotloski stated that the documents are available and explained that she would first confirm with the Village Clerk whether a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request is required prior to release. Ms. Kotloski indicated she would follow up with Ms. Whitaker accordingly.

Ms. Whitaker asked which phase of the Centennial Park project included the court renovation and was informed the work is scheduled for Phase One. Ms. Whitaker questioned whether the conversion from tennis to pickleball courts is permitted under the grant terms. Ms. Kotloski clarified that the grant references “racket sports” and that both tennis and pickleball qualify under that designation. Ms. Kotloski further explained that the community input process with Hitchcock Design in August 2024 resulted in a recommendation for pickleball courts, though the final decision occurred prior to her employment with the Village.

Ms. Whitaker stated that during the referenced community meeting, two design concepts were presented and neither included pickleball courts. She expressed concerns regarding potential noise impacts associated with pickleball, citing proximity to nearby residences, the playground, and the pavilion. Ms. Whitaker referenced studies related to pickleball noise, including research from the Acoustical Society of America, and recommended consideration of increased setbacks, additional sound evaluation methods beyond average decibel levels, and research-based noise mitigation strategies.

Keith Whitaker, of 612 Garys Drive, also addressed the Board regarding the court conversion. He stated that during the original design discussions, the primary concern raised by residents was the potential inclusion of basketball courts, and that pickleball courts were not discussed at that time. He asked when the decision to convert to pickleball was made and expressed concern that the change was not communicated earlier.

Mr. Whitaker shared observations regarding pickleball noise at other facilities and raised concerns about parking availability at Centennial Park given the number of existing amenities and the proposed expansion. He expressed concern that converting the courts would eliminate one of the few tennis-playing opportunities in the area and stated that pickleball courts may attract regional users due to limited availability elsewhere. He suggested alternative locations for pickleball courts and

expressed concern about impacts on nearby residents, pavilion users, and children utilizing the playground.

Bob Litner, resident near Centennial Park, spoke regarding potential impacts on nearby homeowners. He stated that while he had no prior concerns with tennis court usage, he was concerned about the intensity of activity associated with six pickleball courts. Mr. Litner emphasized the importance of considering the quality of life of residents living adjacent to the park and requested that resident input be considered when making changes to park amenities.

Following public comment, **Chairman Weber** addressed attendees and clarified that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board serves in an advisory capacity to the Village Board. He stated that all public comments would be documented and forwarded to the Village Board and Mayor for consideration. Chairman Weber noted that the Board would request additional information regarding sound impacts and relevant studies.

Ms. Kotloski reiterated that the concerns raised would be shared with the Village Board and Mayor and stated she would consult with Hitchcock Design to determine whether modifications to the project remain feasible at the current stage.

Ms. Kotloski also read an email submitted by **Marcelina Stewart**, 600 Garys Drive, who was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Stewart stated that she lives adjacent to the tennis courts and has observed consistent tennis use over the past ten years. She noted that tennis courts currently allow for dual use by both tennis and pickleball players and expressed concern that converting the courts to dedicated pickleball use would eliminate tennis opportunities. Ms. Stewart requested that the courts remain unchanged to preserve shared use.

Chairman Weber thanked all speakers for their participation and confirmed that detailed notes were taken. He stated that Ms. Kotloski would prepare a formal recommendation based on the Advisory Board's review and public input, which would be reviewed by the Board prior to submission to the Village Board and Mayor.

6. **Chairperson's Report**

Chairman Weber addressed the concerns raised during public comment and provided context to the Board regarding information received from prior Parks and Recreation Directors, noting that there have been three different directors during the Centennial Park project. Chairman Weber stated that, at this time, he had no additional items to report.

7. **Director's Report**

Parks & Recreation Director Katie Kotloski provided the Director's Report, beginning with an update on the **Centennial Park Project**. Kotloski stated that the project remains on schedule. Plans are to go to bids on **February 25**, with bid acceptance anticipated for Village Board consideration at the **March 25** meeting. Pending approval, construction is expected to begin the week of **April 4**, with ground-breaking occurring in April and a projected grand opening in **September**. Kotloski also noted that an in-person project meeting is scheduled for the week of **January 5** to review permitting, construction logistics, and concerns raised during the Advisory Board meeting.

Kotloski then provided departmental updates. **Winter Break Camp** is scheduled to begin the following week and currently shows strong enrollment, particularly when compared to the previous year. She acknowledged Ford's efforts in preparing programming and logistics for the program.

Ms. Kotloski thanked Board members, staff, and volunteers who assisted with the **Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting**, noting strong attendance and positive community feedback despite cold weather conditions. She expressed appreciation for the collective effort and invited feedback on potential improvements. Board Member B. Nolan noted a shortage of safety vests during the event. Ms. Kotloski stated that additional vests will be obtained to ensure sufficient availability at future events.

Kotloski announced that the **Winter Wine Walk** is scheduled for **January 17**. She emphasized that participating businesses must be registered by **December 28** due to increased liquor license fees imposed by the State when applications are submitted within two weeks of the event. Ms. Kotloski encouraged Board members to help spread the word to local businesses. Ticket sales are currently progressing well.

Ms. Kotloski reported increased public inquiries regarding **pool pass purchases** for holiday gifts. The department is preparing to offer online purchasing options. In the meantime, gift certificates are being provided as placeholders.

Kotloski distributed informational packets to Board members, which included a preliminary list of **2026 events**. She stated that the advance notice is intended to encourage attendance and volunteer participation. Additional outreach will be conducted to regular volunteers and the local high school to support staffing needs for these events.

Kotloski shared that the **Farmers Market** will be reimagined for 2026 and moved to Saturdays for a ten-week season. The market will be combined with **Sequoit Saturdays** and a **Food Truck Festival** to increase attendance, as these events have not performed as well when scheduled separately. The department hosted approximately 10–12 vendors last season and is targeting closer to 20 vendors for the upcoming year.

Ms. Kotloski noted that the Spring/Summer Program Guide is currently behind schedule. She explained that the Parks and Recreation Department is staffed by three employees total and that all design, data entry, and production work for the guide is completed in-house. Staff are working extended hours to ensure the guide is completed and delivered on schedule. The anticipated delivery to mailboxes is **mid-February**.

8. **Financial Reports for Period Ending November 30, 2025**

The Park Advisory Board reviewed the Financial Reports for the period ending November 30, 2025.

9. **Next Meeting**

The next Park Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 6:30 pm at Village Hall.

10. **Other Business**

The Commission inquired and commented on various subjects.

Board Member **S. Nolan** expressed appreciation for the *Kids in the Kitchen* program held prior to the meeting, noting that she and Board Member **B. Nolan** enjoyed assisting with the event.

Board Member **Olufs** stated that he had no additional items to report at this time but requested to revisit the concerns raised during the meeting. Kotloski stated that she will prepare a formal written response addressing the issues discussed, which will be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board prior to being forwarded to the Village Board. Kotloski emphasized that the matters raised are being taken seriously.

Board Member **Schartz** raised concerns regarding snow removal at **Sequoit Creek Park**, stating that seating areas remain covered with snow and ice. He noted that current snow removal methods appear insufficient and suggested evaluating alternative equipment or removing seating during winter months. Board Member **S. Nolan** stated that similar conditions exist at **Centennial Park**, which Board Member Schartz confirmed based on his observations.

Chairman **Weber** acknowledged Board Member **B. Nolan's** birthday prior to his comments. Board Member B. Nolan thanked Chairman Weber and asked whether the upcoming **Princess Dance** event is limited to Antioch residents. Ms. Kotloski clarified that the event is open to both residents and non-residents, noting that some programs may have differential resident and non-resident fees. She further stated that individuals residing within the 60002 zip code are considered residents.

Board Member **Deichsel** suggested offering a **Parents' Night Out** program around Valentine's Day, referencing the success of the previous event. Recreation Supervisor **Ford** stated that she will explore this opportunity and thanked her for the recommendation.

Deichsel also raised concerns regarding **food trucks blocking accessible parking** during previous events at Sequoit Creek Park. Ms. Kotloski reviewed her tentative Saturday event plan, noting that the layout is intended to avoid obstruction of accessible parking. She stated that if changes become necessary, additional accessible parking accommodations will be provided.

Deichsel followed up on accessibility concerns at the **Sawmill** discussed with Kotloski prior. Kotloski reported receiving feedback from attendees indicating accessibility challenges. **Deichsel** noted that ramps had previously been used to provide access. Ms. Kotloski stated that after consulting with Public Works Director Dennis Heimbrodt, it was determined that the existing ramps are outdated and no longer functional. New ramps are currently being constructed, along with protective coverings for electrical cords used during the tree lighting. Ms. Kotloski thanked Ms. Deichsel for bringing the matter to her attention.

Chairman Weber concluded the meeting by thanking Board members, staff, and volunteers for their efforts related to the **Christmas Parade**, noting positive community feedback. He also thanked Kotloski for her work and expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming 2026 year, which Kotloski echoed.

11. **Adjournment**

B. Nolan/Hartman motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Vote –

Yes = 7

No = 0