

**Village of Antioch Park Advisory Board**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2026**

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

**1. Call to Order**

Park Board Chairman Weber called the March 18, 2026 regular meeting of the Park Advisory to order at 6:30 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 Advisor led the Pledge of Allegiance

**4. Approval of Minutes**

Nolan B./Schartz motion and second to approve the January 21, 2026 Park Advisory minutes.

Vote –

Yes = 7

No = 0

**5. Public Comment & Communications**

Chairman Weber asked if any public wanted to provide any comments.

No public Comment

**6. Reports**

**a. Chairman Weber’s Report**

Chairman Weber noted that approximately 5,000 individuals signed a petition regarding the Centennial Park playground structure, which had been shared through social media. He expressed surprise that, despite this level of public interest through social media, there has been no corresponding public attendance tonight or any other recent meetings, nor have any individuals appeared to speak or provide input on the matter of the playground structure itself.

## **b. Board Member Reports**

### **i. Deichsel**

Board Member Deichsel expressed concerns regarding snow removal in downtown Antioch and at local parks, specifically the bike path at Osmond Brothers Park. She noted that insufficient snow clearing creates accessibility challenges for individuals who rely on wheelchairs or walkers. Director Kotloski clarified that snow removal falls under the Public Works Department; however, she will communicate these concerns to the appropriate staff. She also shared that she is working on improving communication processes to better relay similar concerns in the future and is awaiting further direction on how to proceed. Director Kotloski thanked Board Member Deichsel for bringing this issue forward and stated that the concern will also be shared with the Village Administrator. Board Member Deichsel added that she is available to further discuss the matter with anyone who has questions.

### **ii. Hartman**

Board Member Hartman congratulated Katie and her team on the success of the Shamrock Shuffle event. Although he arrived later in the event, he shared that he was very pleased with what he observed. He also inquired about the status of the flag football program. Director Kotloski noted that she will provide an update during her report.

### **iii. Nolan, B.**

Board Member Nolan inquired about the assignment of parks to board members. Director Kotloski stated that park assignments will be finalized and shared by the next meeting.

### **iv. Nolan, S.**

Board Member Nolan shared positive feedback regarding the Shamrock Shuffle, noting how well the team worked together to execute the event. Director Kotloski thanked Board Members Nolan, Nolan, Schartz, and Deichsel for volunteering and assisting with the Shamrock Shuffle and Jam events.

#### **v. Olufs**

Board Member Olufs followed up on concerns similar to those raised by Board Member Deichsel, noting an issue on a parkway off North Avenue. He explained that a tree had been removed by a contracted company, which he agreed was necessary; however, debris from the tree removal was left behind. While some neighbors assisted in removing larger pieces, smaller branches and debris remain.

Board Member Olufs noted that the parkway is owned by the Village and referenced prior discussions regarding potential beautification efforts in the area. He requested that the remaining debris be addressed. He also added that the Public Works Department has been very responsive in past interactions and acknowledged their efforts. Director Kotloski confirmed that she will notify Public Works of the remaining debris.

#### **vi. Schartz**

Board Member Schartz shared that he had a great experience at the Shamrock Shuffle and expressed appreciation for being part of a successful community event.

### **7. Director's Report**

#### **Advisory Board Meeting Format Update**

Director Kotloski introduced an updated Advisory Board meeting format, as reflected in the current agenda. The revised structure is intended to better align with the Village Board meeting format, creating a more cohesive and organized flow. This format will remain consistent moving forward.

Board members were encouraged to request additional agenda items as needed. The goal is to distribute agendas one week in advance to allow members adequate time to review and prepare.

#### **Centennial Park Project Update**

Director Kotloski reported that bid openings for the Centennial Park project took place earlier that day. A total of ten (10) bids were received out of twelve (12) distributed packets. Hitchcock Design Group is currently reviewing the bids, including alternate options, and conducting reference checks.

The next step will be to present a recommendation to the Village Board for approval of the lowest responsible bidder at the April Village Board meeting. This timeline reflects a slight delay due to scheduling conflicts from spring break absences.

The anticipated timeline for construction is mid-to-late April, pending approval. A groundbreaking event is being planned.

During construction, the north parking lot at Centennial Park will be closed for staging purposes. Coordination has taken place with Antioch Youth Little League (AYLL) to minimize use of adjacent fields. The south parking lot will remain open, and signage will be posted to inform the public.

Requests from the public to obtain wood from the existing playground structure were addressed; the Village will not be distributing materials. The Board also discussed the possibility of a farewell event and alternative commemorative opportunities.

### **Department Operations Update**

Director Kotloski announced that her office has officially relocated to Village Hall. Contact information remains unchanged. This transition is part of a long-term plan to repurpose the Parks and Recreation building for programming, rentals, and events.

Public-facing services (e.g., registration, rentals, and pool membership distribution) will eventually transition fully to Village Hall once a new administrative assistant/registrar is hired and trained. This change is intended to centralize operations and improve workflow efficiency by reducing interruptions at the Parks and Recreation facility.

Coordination between department staff will continue to ensure effective communication and operations across locations.

### **Hiram Buttrick Sawmill Update**

Director Kotloski reported receiving competitive quotes for repairs to the sawmill wheel. The selected proposal is significantly lower than previously anticipated estimates and is just under \$60,000. Pending approval, repairs are expected to be completed within approximately six weeks.

### **Equipment Update**

As part of the new fiscal year budget planning, the department has secured quotes for facility-use golf carts. Two golf carts will be purchased to improve efficiency during events and daily operations.

### **Aquatics Staffing Update**

The department will be opening recruitment for a seasonal full-time Aquatics Manager position. The role requires experience managing aquatic facilities, supervising staff, and training lifeguards. Board members were encouraged to share the opportunity with qualified candidates.

### **Parks & Facilities Updates**

Public Works recently completed replacement of the Bandshell roof in a single day.

New speakers have also been delivered and tested successfully during the Shamrock Jam event.

Additionally, the summer concert series lineup will be announced soon, with the kickoff band to be featured on local radio.

### **Program Highlights**

Director Kotloski reported strong success with recent events:

Director Kotloski reported that the Shamrock Shuffle & Jam was highly successful, with 195 race participants, representing a 64% increase from the previous year. Overall attendance was strong, and the event received very positive feedback. One area identified for improvement was the need for additional restroom accommodations at the start line for future events.

Summer Camp registration opened on March 2, with daily fees increasing by 2% (\$1). On the first day of registration, revenue increased by 15% compared to the previous year. Although the total number of registrants was slightly lower, families are enrolling in more services upfront, indicating increased trust and engagement in the program.

### **Budget & Capital Planning**

Director Kotloski submitted the department's initial budget draft to Finance and is awaiting feedback.

A five-year capital improvement plan has also been developed, incorporating: Previous master plans, Community feedback, Village Board input and Departmental observations

Projects are prioritized based on safety, need, age, and cost. Emphasis has been placed on maintaining and improving existing assets before introducing new developments. The plan is currently in draft form and not yet for public distribution.

### **Advisory Board Role Clarification**

Director Kotloski shared guidance received from Village Administrator Andrew Lichterman regarding the role of the Advisory Board.

The Board will serve in an advisory capacity by reviewing topics, forming recommendations, and submitting formal recommendation letters to the Village Board. Final decisions will remain with the Village Board.

This clarified process will support more structured decision-making and improved implementation of projects and initiatives.

### **Data & Technology**

Director Kotloski noted that the department has access to Placer.ai software, which provides estimated usage data and heat mapping for park spaces. This tool will assist in evaluating park usage and planning improvements.

### **Pedersen Park Discussion**

Discussion occurred regarding potential installation of license plate recognition cameras (“Flock cameras”) at Pedersen Park. Director Kotloski will follow up for additional information.

Concerns were raised regarding unauthorized dumping and traffic patterns in the area. It was noted that removal of the park dumpster may help mitigate some issues.

### **Flag Football Program Update**

Director Kotloski announced plans to launch a Parks & Recreation-operated flag football league beginning in Fall 2026.

The previous community-led league is no longer operating. The new program aims to provide a recreational, in-house alternative to existing travel programs, offering flexibility for families seeking different levels of commitment.

The program is expected to take place at Sprenger Park and will be led in part by Board Member Hartman. Initial community interest has been strong.

## **8. Financial Reports for Period Ending February 28, 2026**

The Park Advisory Board reviewed the Financial Reports for the period ending February 28, 2026.

## **9. Next Meeting**

The next Park Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the Village Hall building.

## **10. Other Business**

Commissioner Deichsel inquired about the process at the conclusion of a Parks Advisory Board member’s term. Director Kotloski explained that the Village Clerk maintains records of all board member terms and will proactively reach out as terms approach expiration to determine whether members are interested in continuing their

service. Director Kotloski also noted that she will follow up with the Village Clerk to confirm the process and ensure all information is accurate.

Commissioner Nolan, B. inquired about potential involvement in a proposed Eagle Scout project related to improvements at the Scout House building. While it was mentioned that initial outreach may have occurred, Director Kotloski and staff indicated they had not received direct communication regarding the project. Director Kotloski stated that she will follow up with the Scouts to gather additional information and determine next steps.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Hartman/Olufs motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Vote –

Yes = 7

No = 0