

## Village of Antioch Park Advisory Board

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

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

### 1. Call to Order

Park Board Chairman Weber called the November 19, 2025 regular meeting of the Park Advisory to order at 6:30 p.m.

### 2. Roll Call

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

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Antioch Park Advisor led the Pledge of Allegiance

### 4. Approval of Minutes

Hartman/Nolan motion and second to approve the October 15, 2025 Park Advisory minutes.

Vote –

Yes = 6

No = 0

### 5. Communications

Nothing to Report

### 6. Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Weber opened his report by welcoming the two newest board members, Rob Schartz and Sue Nolan, and invited each to provide a brief introduction.

Schartz shared that he has been a resident of Antioch for over 40 years and has extensive experience working in parks. His professional background includes serving as an equipment manager and labor foreman in construction, and he expressed interest in contributing his experience to the board.

Ms. Nolan stated that she has lived in Antioch for 14 years after relocating from Chicago with her husband, Brian. She holds a degree in graphic design and works as a creative designer and artist. She noted that she values the community and hopes to bring a positive creative perspective to the board.

Chairperson Weber reviewed the 2026 meeting schedule. Kotloski confirmed that the Parks Advisory Board will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. for the year of 2026. Weber also informed new members that the board conducts park walks at the beginning of meetings during the summer months.

Weber noted that the board has received the updated park inspection report and will soon begin assigning parks to members for monthly review. The revised checklist, prepared by Kotloski, is designed to be more visually organized and inclusive, allowing members to report their findings at the following meetings.

Chairperson Weber asked whether the sizing for walking paths had changed. Kotloski confirmed that the paths will remain at 6 feet due to constraints. This discussion transitioned into the Director's Report regarding the Centennial Park update.

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

Director Kotloski provided background information on the current status of Centennial Park to bring new board members, Ms. Nolan and Mr. Schartz, up to date and to ensure they are prepared to answer any public questions. She explained that, based on community feedback identifying priorities for the park, amenities budget will be lowered to allow for a larger budget allocation toward the playground structure. As a result, the playground structure budget has been increased from \$110,000 to \$160,000. Options for the new structure will be reviewed and selected at the next meeting on Friday.

Kotloski met with Hitchcock Design Group on October 23 and has scheduled an on-site meeting with the electrical contractor to assess electrical needs and determine how security cameras can be incorporated into the park. Bathrooms will not be included in Phase One; however, they will serve as the primary location for electrical systems, so adequate space is being planned.

There was discussion regarding the lion fountain, including where it drains and whether it should remain in the design. Kotloski confirmed that the fountain drains to a sanitary sewer and will be preserved due to its nostalgic value and its good functional condition.

Kotloski also addressed ongoing community interest in pickleball. Following discussions with the Mayor, the plan now includes six pickleball courts. This update does not increase overall project cost, even with the recommended competitive play spacing. Four-foot fencing will also be installed between courts and also supports spectator visibility.

The next key step is determining the logistics of the playground structure. Board members will be included in this process via email to gather additional input. Due to delays associated with the playground structure, the project is expected to go out to bid in January.

Hartman asked about the status of the commemorative bricks. Kotloski reported that, although the original intent was to salvage them, many bricks are illegible and cannot be restored. While she is unaware of any master list identifying brick donors, the plan is to return legible bricks to families and coordinate with the community to identify owners of the remaining bricks. She also noted planning for Hartman's prior suggestion to create plaques acknowledging the original construction of the park and recognizing contributors. She indicated that the board will provide significant input on this effort given their historical involvement.

Kotloski responded to questions from Ms. Nolan regarding the playground footprint. She clarified that while the overall footprint around the playground will be reduced, the playground structure itself will remain the same size. She also confirmed that there is room for future expansion if needed, as the surrounding area will remain open green space.

Kotloski reiterating the updated park inspection checklist and the 2026 meeting schedule. She encouraged board members to review the materials and contact her with any questions or suggested revisions. She also informed the board that the Village is constructing a new Public Works facility off North Avenue, with a groundbreaking scheduled for Friday at 11 a.m., and invited members to attend. Following that event, a special meeting will be held at the library.

#### Department Updates:

Kristen Fielder attended the meeting to review the Christmas parade lineup. Kotloski reported that the Kids in the Kitchen program, run by Ford, continues to grow and had another successful session earlier in the day. Ford invited board members to participate in programs such as Kids in the Kitchen as an opportunity to be more engaged with younger

residents. Kotloski encouraged board involvement in assisting with the Christmas parade as well.

Ms. Nolan offered to lead community art activities at future events, and Ford will coordinate with her regarding potential programming opportunities.

Kotloski announced that Santa Home Visits and Breakfast with Santa still have openings. Due to a scheduling conflict with Open Arms and their amazing community gift-giving event, the Antioch Township has graciously made space available for the Breakfast with Santa program in their building.

Ford asked the board to share any upcoming community events the department might participate in to increase visibility and awareness of programs and services. She emphasized that the department has significantly reduced program cancellations compared to past years. Kotloski supported this statement and highlighted recent successes, including the Parent's Night Out event attended by Ford and Fielder, noting strong participation and positive feedback from families to do more programs and events like this.

The Director's Report concluded with final coordination of the Christmas parade lineup and logistics.

#### **8. Financial Reports for Period Ending October 31, 2025**

The Park Advisory Board reviewed the Financial Reports for the period ending October 31, 2025.

#### **9. Next Meeting**

The next Park Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm at the Village Hall building.

#### **10. Other Business**

Commission Inquired and commented on subjects to include:

##### **Capital Budget:**

Director Kotloski reported that her highest priority within the capital budget is the Sawmill. She noted that the roof of the bandshell will be replaced and new speakers will be installed in April. The Aqua Center will receive a new sand filter, and the pool base will be repainted in May. This work may delay the pool's opening date; however, she emphasized that the improvements will significantly enhance the user experience, particularly by providing a smoother pool surface and reducing the foot

abrasions experienced in previous seasons. Although these upgrades are not highly visible, Kotloski stressed their importance in improving overall community satisfaction.

#### Christmas Tree Lights:

Chairperson Weber asked whether the Christmas tree lights had been located. Kotloski confirmed they were found and are currently with Public Works. A contractor is scheduled to install the lights tomorrow.

#### Cannabis Tax Allocation:

Member Nolan commented that in Colorado, cannabis tax revenue is allocated directly to parks, which has contributed to the state having some of the best parks in the country. He suggested that a similar funding approach could benefit local park development.

#### Centennial Park Budget Information:

Mr. Schartz requested access to the Centennial Park budget plan, noting that he needs a full understanding of the project to accurately inform the public. Kotloski agreed and offered to schedule a meeting with Mr. Schartz and Mrs. Nolan to review the extensive historical background and current planning details. Other board members also shared information they have gathered about the project to help bring the new members up to speed. Kotloski will contact them after the meeting to arrange an in-person session covering Centennial Park logistics and planning.

#### Public Works Facility:

Olufs asked for additional information regarding the new Public Works facility. Kotloski explained that a new building will be constructed, and the current facility on Haley will no longer be used. The new facility will include garages, offices, a car wash, and dedicated space for Public Works equipment and vehicles. She noted that she does not yet have details regarding building sizes or measurements. Nolan mentioned hearing rumors about a solar farm being built on the site; Kotloski clarified that while a solar farm is being developed elsewhere, it is not planned for the Public Works location.

Weber asked what will happen to the old Public Works building. Kotloski stated she is not aware of the Village's plans at this time. Weber remarked that the site could make a good grassy park area.

#### Volunteer List:

Weber requested that a volunteer list be distributed to board members. Kotloski stated that they are finalizing a list of program and special-event volunteer needs, which will be sent to the board for sign-ups.

**Website File Updates:**

Weber also requested that outdated files on the Village website be removed. Kotloski noted that this request has already been made but will follow up again, as the outdated content remains.

**Long Grove Wheel:**

Olufs informed the board that he emailed Kotloski information regarding a wheel in Long Grove, suggesting it may be relevant when discussing potential repairs to the current wheel with the Village Board.

**11. Adjournment**

Hartman/Nolan motion and second to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m.

Vote –

Yes = 6

No = 0