

Village of Bellaire
PARKS COMMITTEE
Benjamin Dominguez-Benner, Chairperson

Patrick Boyd

Helen Schuckel

Posted: August 5, 2026

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
July 30th, 2026
2:30 PM

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 2:30 PM

II. Roll Call - Attendance

Present: Patrick Boyd, Helen Schuckel, and Benjamin Dominguez-Benner

Absent: None

Staff Present: Aaron Kirt, DPW Supervisor; Angela St. Pierre, Clerk & Nora Stead, Treasurer.

III. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as amended to add unfinished business item C. Downtown Tree Update, and add new business items B. Wooden Play Structures, and C. Friend of Richardi Update.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Schuckel, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried by voice vote.

IV. Approval of Minutes – June 25, 2026: The minutes of the June 25, 2026 meeting were approved as presented.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Schuckel, to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2026 meeting as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

V. Conflict of Interest: None presented.

VI. Public Comment: None presented.

VII. Unfinished Business:

- a. **Park Rental Policy Review:** Included in the member packets was an updated draft of policy #6-A regarding park rentals. At the previous meeting the inconsistencies in the policy were discussed and how it did not address for-profit entities renting the park facilities. Changes included additions to the policy to address for-profit entities renting park facilities and changing the fee rental rates to be consistent throughout the policy. Further amendments were discussed and a draft will be provided at the next meeting for review and possible approval to be sent to council for final approval.

No action was taken.

- b. **Ballfield Mowing:** Included in the member packets was an email correspondence from Terry Starr, Bellaire Public Schools Superintendent, addressing the contract between the school and the village for the ballfield rentals. In this correspondence Mr. Starr addresses the school board's desire to continue with the current contract and does not wish to amend it as was discussed with the committee and school staff at the June 25, 2026 parks meeting. School staff members Bryan Davies and Brad Fischer were present to discuss an invoice from Union Designs to spread topsoil and grass seed and cut out grass between pitcher's mound and home plate of \$2,220.00 and their request to have the Village pay half of the invoice. It was discussed the desire to have two more estimates provided to the committee before making a recommendation to the council to consider splitting the cost for these services.

No action was taken.

- c. **Downtown Tree Update:** Member Boyd updated that he had been speaking with the DDA and Chamber of Commerce about removing the downtown pine tree and replacing it with a potted tree. Clerk St. Pierre clarified that the parks committee had discussed this tree before but determined that this property is not a park and that the Admin committee would be responsible for making recommendations to the council. Member Boyd stated that an 8-10 foot potted tree would cost roughly \$500-\$600 and would be placed by the downtown bathrooms from fall to spring where it will then move to one of the parks for planting. During summer more tables can be placed where the potted tree was.

No action was taken.

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VIII. New Business

- a. School Ballfield Union Design CO, Invoice:** Discussed in unfinished business item B. The committee discussed the desire to have two more estimates to review prior to making any recommendation to the council to split the cost.

No action was taken.

- b. Wooden Play Structures:** The wooden play structures have been removed from Richardi Park and many people have shown interest in purchasing these structures. The parks committee approved to remove the structures as was detailed in the Richardi Parks Plan but no discussion was held about what to do with them. Donating these structures to the 501(c)(3) Friends of Richardi Group was discussed. This group would be able to sell or auction them off to help raise money for Richardi Park projects.

Motion by Boyd, seconded by Schuckel to recommend to Village Council to donate the wooden play structures to the Friends of Richardi Group. Motion carried by voice vote.

- c. Friends of Richardi Update:** Kristin Bunte was present to give an update on the group and their fundraising efforts. They have received grant funding equaling \$20,000 from the Art and Mary Schmuckal Family Foundation, Antrim Women's Alliance, Rotary Club of Bellaire, and private donors. They are also working on grants with MEDC and MDNR but would require more in depth plans for submission.

No action was taken.

- IX. Correspondence/Reports:** Clerk St. Pierre reported that a camper did have to be evicted from the campground but no issues arose from that eviction. DPW Supervisor Kirt reported that staff has been working on the new playground equipment as fast as they can.

- X. Member/Public Comment:** Paula Schumann was present to speak about an idea she would like to see. She voiced an interest in more events for children such as arts and crafts, corn hole, etc. Member Dominguez-Benner explained that the Bellaire Youth Initiative already does these sorts of events and to reach out to them. Several other concerns were voiced by both committee members and members of the public such as a shortage of doggie bag stations, bees at one of the doggie bag stations, lack of trash cans at the park, request for trash cans at boat launches, and the barbeque pit future plan for maintenance or removal.

- XI. Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 3:36 PM.

Minutes compiled by:
Angela St. Pierre, Clerk

Minutes are subject to approval.

Approved: _____

Date: _____