

City of Van Meter, Iowa

Parks & Recreation Board Meeting – Thursday, April 3, 2025

- 1) The Van Meter Parks & Recreation Board met on Thursday, April 3, 2025 for a meeting. The meeting started at 6:02pm. Parks & Recreation Director Chia called the meeting to order & roll was taken.
Board Members Present: Janice Miller, Lisa Benton, Rona Jacobs, Amber Bowen, Brooks Newton
Board Members Absent: Rhonda Baldwin
Staff Present: Sam Chia – Parks & Rec Director, Jessica Drake – City Clerk
- 2) Board Member Benton moved, supported by Miller, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- 3) Board Member Bowen moved, supported by Jacobs, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.
- 4) Board Member Benton provided an update on Yoga in the Park. The events will take place at the Legion green space for 8 weeks on certain Saturdays beginning on June 7, 2025. The Legion is not charging for use of space. Staff will create Facebook events that are public and can be shared & the events will be added to the City calendar. Save the dates are already in the newsletter. Yard signs have been ordered.
- 5) Director Chia provided updates on summer rec activities included rec sport participation activities and an upcoming youth soccer clinic put on the DSM Menace Team. He also provided updates on field work, concession stand repairs and the Iowa Recreation Conference he recently attended. There was discussion regarding a future plan for sponsorships to support rec sports. Additional conversation took place around P&R communication and scheduling. Sam & Jess will evaluate and develop an ongoing communication plan after this season.
- 6) Director Chia and Board Member Newton led a discussion regarding soccer field maintenance and current issues regarding needs for seeding and aeration. There was discussion regarding rotation of field space and alternative practice space as well as looking at possible alternative service providers for field maintenance. Board Member Newton offered to look at alternate field spaces and will work with Director Chia to determine a path forward.
- 7) The Board and Staff discussed upcoming activities. Board Member Miller noted an error on the printed date in the newsletter for the Plant Sale and Garage Sale. City Clerk Drake updated the date and posted a corrected version on the website and social media as well as the printed fliers for the school. Plants will be selected for the upcoming sale and prices will remain the same as last year. Board Members are still looking for a coffee truck for that date. Additional conversation took place about a possible Chalk Night and collaboration with other departments. Staff will coordinate with Library and/or Police on a Chalk Night.
- 8) Board Member Bowen moved, supported by Newton, to approve the hiring of Corey Jameson to perform at the first Concert on the Corner at Memorial Park in June at the cost of \$200.00. Motion carried.
- 9) The meeting was adjourned at 7:04pm.



Attest: Jessica Drake, City Clerk