**DRAFT**

Utica Nebraska-Parks and Recreation
Board Meeting Minutes
Oct 19, 2026 at 7:00 PM at the Utica Senior Center
520 D St, Utica, NE 68456

**Call to Order**: 7:02 PM

- This is an Open Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board of the Village of Utica NE.
- A copy of the Open Meetings Act is available for review by anyone present at the meeting.
- Public notice for this meeting has been performed and documented.
- The Board Chairman/President reserves the right to adjust the order of agenda items.
- The Board may vote to enter into Closed Session on any agenda item as allowed by Nebraska State Law, including the protection of the public interest or to prevent the needless injury to the reputation of an individual.

**Roll Call**:

- ☑ Mat Volzke
- ☑ Randy Steinhausen
- ☐ Mitch Peeks
- ☑ Derek Dubas
- ☑ Dylan Weimer
- ☑ John Javorsky
- ☑ Board of Trustees liaison –Jim Swanson
- ☑ Board of Trustees liaison-Nick Bloebaum

Determination of a quorum.

**Approval of Agenda**

- Randy makes a motion to amend the minutes to move topic #3 **"Discuss minutes from the September meeting"** from New Business to now. Motion seconded by Dylan.

- ☑ Mat Volzke
- ☑ Randy Steinhausen
- ☑ Derek Dubas
- ☑ Dylan Weimer
- ☑ John Javorsky

Motion Passed

Reviewed September minutes and discussed that the following changes need to be made: 1) Must include reason for moving to closed session, 2) Change title from Board meeting agenda to board meeting minutes, and 3). Include DRAFT at top of minutes as they are not official until the Utica Village Board can review.

**Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting**
Motion to approve the September minutes as amended, made by John, seconded by Dylan

- ☑ Mat Volzke
- ☑ Randy Steinhausen
- ☑ Derek Dubas
- ☑ Dylan Weimer
- ☑ John Javorsky

Motion Passed

**Public Comments**:
Public comment on all non-agenda items should be presented at this time, then at the beginning of the discussion of the individual agenda items.

The Chair reserves the right to set a time limit on public comments

Kayla Anderson was here to present on behalf of the UBO: Kayla did some pricing on single and double batting cages. A double would allow for both baseball and softball warm ups. The price of a double is about $24,000, but does not include electrical or concrete. A big question is where would it go. The baseball cage is 75' long and a softball cage is 55'. Would it be better to fix what we have now and then down the road, after getting priorities straight, we can circle back to it? The UBO isn't sure, because so many people are new and are not sure of job responsibilities. They don't have any by-laws, so no one knows who can cast a vote, or how they should go about getting larger projects done on Village ground.

At this point, Jim Swanson spoke up and said that the way it should work is the UBO comes up with their list of wants and needs. Then bring that list to the Parks and Rec. board where they will then decide what items they will present to the Village board.

Kayla proceeded to ask about how that process works when the UBO applies for a grant. If the UBO can get their own funding, then they wouldn't need to seek approval.

Kayla also mentioned that concessions did not make hardly any money this season and is not worth the UBO's time and effort. She would rather see it go a different direction, whether that be through outside vending, food trucks or some other idea.

Circling back to the batting cages, Mat and Dylan both commented that NPPD out of Seward would be happy to supply any new poles that are required to fix the current batting cage, and may even set them for the UBO, if they have time.

For now, Kayla says the UBO will be focusing on these 4 projects:
1). Dirt work around the infield of the baseball fields
2). A walking path that connects to both fields for players to stay off the parking lots
3). Restrooms
4). Baseball batting cages

Board Mission:
"The Village of Utica Parks and Recreation Board shall permanently preserve, protect, maintain, improve and enhance its natural resources, parkland and recreational opportunities for all current and future generations."

Old Business:
1. Bylaws

A- Status
Rita reached out and the lawyer is out on maternity leave but has been reviewing them.

B- Discuss probation, attendance, etc.
Not needed at this time. Will circle back once bylaws have been instituted.

2. Ball Fields and Park -

A- Batting cage progress
Will move forward with NPPD bringing new poles to set in place of old leaning poles.

B- Concession stand/Restrooms
Covered these topics with Kayla Anderson

3. Bike Rally/Safety Training

Seward extension office called back and informed Mat that most of the surrounding towns have wrapped up their safety bike rallies. They were able to provide a couple safety pamphlets for us if we should choose to do one of our own. If we decide to want to use the Centennial High School parking lot, we would need to contact CHS lawyer first. We will most likely wait and see what the Seward County Sheriff's office comes up with since they have been looking into this as well.

4. Possible upgrades to Tower Park

Still working out possibilities, but we know for sure that it cannot be used for commercial or home use. Jim Swanson commented that they had in the past looked into building homes here and cannot do this as it is a common flood zone.

5. Upgrades to area east of Pickle all courts

Could add in another pickle ball court if we would want to. Would need to assess how often the current courts are getting used first.

A. Possible Community Garden

Too much of an investment to put in plumbing and provide water for this, so will most likely not continue to pursue.

B. Other options

6. FFA Advisor contact results?

A. Other Contacts

Not moving forward with this as of now.

New Business:

1. Village Board Report

Jim Swanson commented that at the last Village board meeting, there were a lot of unhappy folks there to support the removal of Randy from the Parks and Recreation board. Ultimately the village moved to put Randy on probation for 12 months. The Parks and Rec board must direct Randy on what they want him to do. He is not allowed to do anything by his own choice while on probation.

2. UBO Update / Information

John Javorsky is no longer serving as the President of the UBO and no longer a member. Acting only as a liaison for the UBO and Parks and Rec.

3. Discuss minutes from the September meeting.

The topic was moved up for discussion, as amended by the Parks and Rec. board.

4/6

4. Grants
Did not discuss anything further

5. Pool

A. Update on leak/water loss. Final water meter chart and progress report.

Jim Swanson stated that the Parks and Rec board must work together to decide what information we want and the intent behind the need for that information.

Randy is displeased with the amount of water lost at the pool and would like an answer as to where that water is leaking from. Randy had several charts showing the calculated water loss based on the old meter reading. However those meter readings are inaccurate as that meter was broken and replaced in July.

B. "End of season" report including: number and breakdown of passes, average daily attendance, length of season/days closed, repairs & maintenance issues, YTD profit/loss (cost of operation), other pertinent information.

We reviewed the profit and loss budget from October 2025 through June 2026.
The pool was filled 10 times this summer.

C. Concessions?
Did not discuss..

D. Provide the Board with a list of current responsibilities for managers and guards to be discussed at the November meeting.
Since advertising and recruitment has already begun, applicants should be aware of the Requirements.
McKenzie did post on the Utica Facebook page. Need to have at least 5 more guards including a manager, Assistant Manager and a Lead. Rita will put an ad in the newspaper starting in December.

E. Rules...when should we start to review and update? 4 Corners presentation?
Did not discuss.

Next Meeting: November 16, 2026

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by John, seconded by Derek.

- ☑ Mat Volzke
- ☑ Randy Steinhausen
- ☑ Derek Dubas
- ☑ Dylan Weimer
- ☑ John Javorsky

Motion passed

Meeting adjourned at: 8:37pm