



BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2026

A regular meeting of the Derby Recreation Commission was held at the Derby Recreation Center, 801 E. Market Street, Tuesday, January 13, 2026.

Chairman Eric Tauer called the meeting to order. Present were Board members Ken Boote, David Sowden, Brent Renberger, and Rick Ruff. Also present were Chris Drum, Superintendent of Recreation, Darcie Parkhurst, Director of Facilities, Derek Smith, Director of Administration, Misti Gladman-Freerks, Assistant Director of Administration, Dara Miranda, Director of Marketing, Alex Dinicola, Director of IT, Vanessa Rugg, Director of Programs, DeeAnna Claytor, Assistant Director of Programs, Darren Hornback, Sports Director, Curtis Baxter, Sports Coordinator, Brian Hultgren, Sports Coordinator, Susie Wilkes, Fitness Director, Aimee Ediger, Fitness Coordinator, Ashlynn Godown-Schenker, Program Supervisor, Donita Grinde-Houtman, Aquatic Director, Caryn Hendry, Administrative Assistant. Guests included Patricia Jeffries and her family and friends, Trina Bauer, Eric Meyer, George Bowerman & Noel, PA, and Cody Friesen, Derby Informer.

Eric Tauer moved to strike Item K. Executive Session from the Agenda, Rick Ruff seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Brent Renberger moved to approve the consent agenda, David Sowden seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Trina Bauer presented Patricia Jeffries with the 8th Annual 2026 Trina Bauer Inspirational Wellness Award.

Eric Tauer announced a 5 minute recess.

The Superintendent Report was reviewed. Chris Drum discussed the commendable membership retention figures for the past two years; announced that, in accordance with the Rock River Management Agreement with the City of Derby, the balance of the Rock River Rapids fund was disbursed to the City of Derby in December, and mentioned that the board-approved 3% general wage adjustment will be implemented this month.

The Staff Highlights were reviewed. Darcie Parkhurst discussed the ductwork painting project underway in the DRC gymnasium along with the expected timeline for completion and discussed social media posts highlighting the new Fitness Nooks around the track. Vanessa Rugg highlighted the Noon Year's Eve special event and Camp DRC program registration numbers. Derek Smith discussed preparation of the 1099 and W2 forms for the first time in the Paycore software and staff will now have the option to receive them electronically and discussed that staff is evaluating credit card transaction rates.

Ashlynn Godown-Schenker highlighted the holiday special events, Christmas in the Park/ Breakfast with Santa, Zoom with Santa, Santa Paws and Santa's Workshop.

Darren Hornback outlined the 2025 youth softball tournament season, featuring Decarsky Park and High Park and highlighted key programs in youth leagues and adult sports initiatives.

Eric Meyer presented the 2024-2025 DRC Audit. Ken Boote moved to approve the 2024-2025 audit as presented, David Sowden seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Brent Renberger moved to approve the 2025-2026 Audit Engagement with George, Bowerman & Noel as presented, Rick Ruff seconded, motion carried 5-0.

Donita Grinde-Houtman highlighted the 2025 accomplishments of the Risk Management Committee as well as the focus for 2026.

DeeAnna Claytor presented the 2025 Annual Volunteer Report to the board.

David Sowden moved to adjourn, Ken Boote seconded, motion carried 5-0.