

Planning Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 16, 2025; 8:30 am  
Fargo Parks Sports Center  
Alex Stern Boardroom

Update on the Urban Archery Deer Hunting Program:

- Odin Helgeson and Rob Mounts, presented. Odin reviewed the outcomes of the deer hunting program, clarifying that 21 hunters harvested 37 deer, and discussed incidents where deer were hit but not recovered.
- Procedures for handling such incidents were discussed, including the recovery of arrows and reporting of lost deer.
- The importance of program coordinators identifying participants and ensuring no changes to designated hunting areas was emphasized.
- Action items include providing a map of the hunting areas and coordinating with a previous program participant.
- Feedback indicated the program is running well, with improvements such as signage contributing to its success and few issues reported.

Presentation on BMX Skate Park:

- Al Ness, presented. The meeting began with a discussion about the skate park layout, emphasizing making every area usable and accessible for all ages and skill levels.
- The design aims to maximize community engagement, with features for both beginners and experienced riders, and to support events that attract participants from multiple states.
- The importance of community education, youth involvement, and the positive impact of BMX and skate activities on local children and families was highlighted.

Update on additional parking lot at the Sports Center:

Kali Mork, presented. Kali reviewed the plan for the start of the new parking lot for the Sports Center. She discussed the different locations and where it was decided upon.

Update on the 2026 Preliminary Budget Draft #1:

- Broc Lietz, presented. Broc reviewed the preliminary budget, noting an increase in property tax valuation and expected state aid.
- There was discussion about the impact of new legislation (House Bill 1176) introducing a 3% cap on tax levies, and options for managing the general fund and debt service.
- The budget currently shows a surplus, but departments are still finalizing their numbers. The importance of budgeting for grants and capital projects was stressed.
- The process for notifying the county about the budget hearing and the timeline for finalizing the budget was outlined.

Update on Prairiewood Hole #2 Recommendation:

- Rocky Papachek presented. Plans were made to communicate changes golf course layout to nearby homeowners, including sending letters and holding an open community engagement event.
- Safety concerns and property damage were discussed, with a plan to develop a waiver and clear communication protocols for staff and participants.
- The team emphasized the need for clear signage, staff training, and a standard process for handling safety incidents and property damage.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

Minutes submitted by Carmen Johnson, Executive Assistant