

PARK BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

February 19, 2026

ATTENDEES

Chairman Courtney Presthus (Via Zoom) called the meeting of the Stark County Park Board to order at 2:00 PM (MT). Paul Clarys, Dustin Elkins, Dean Franchuk, Bernie Marsh, Neal Messer, Courtney Presthus, and Cory White were present. State's Attorney Amanda Engelstad was also present.

MOTION TO APPOINT VICE CHAIR

Neal Messer made MOTION to appoint Vice Chairman Dustin Elkins to continue with meeting procedures, as Chairman Courtney Preshus attended the meeting via Zoom. Cory White SECONDED. All vote Aye, motion carries.

RATIFY AGENDA

Vice Chairman Dustin Elkins called for the approval of the agenda.

Neal Messer made a MOTION to approve the agenda as presented. Paul Clarys SECONDED. All voted Aye, motion carries.

SW SPEEDWAY REPAIR BIDS AND ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Darcy Dennis presented a sustainability plan with projected numbers for the next racing season, as well as a projected plan for moving forward with operational plans for SW Speedway. Paul Clarys asked about the state of the equipment at the facility. Brad Hardigan answered, saying that it had been partially paid for. There is an agreement between Brad Hardigan and the incoming group for a payment plan once the state of the Speedway is clarified. Discussion continues for planning development and repairs of the SW Speedway.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice Chairman Dustin Elkins called for public comments.

Paul Johanson, a past board member and user of the facility, emphasized the importance of facility operations, stating that other major cities have functioning racetracks.

Gauge Johnson, a user of the facility, presented what racing means to him and the importance of facility operations and repairs.

Kurt Wojahn, a user of the facility, first pointed out the volume of volunteers it takes to run a successful event schedule. Kurt Woajon also stated that there is interest in SW Speedway because of the location and quality of events that have been hosted there in the past.

Jeff Miller, a frequent user and volunteer worker of the facility, presented the importance of racing to his family. He continues, stating that SW Speedway is an asset to Stark County and should be treated as an investment.

Josh [last name non-legible], a past Stark County Fair Board member and user of the facility, shared his passion for SW Speedway and its past and future successes.

Vice Chairman Dustin Elkins asked for any other comments. Bernie Marsh said that SW Speedway is important to all of SW North Dakota, not just Stark County. Bernie Marsh advised that an investment be made in SW Speedway.

Cory White and Bernie Marsh added to the discussion, stressing the importance of taking action.

Neal Messer presented the history of SW Speedway, providing information about repairs that have taken place and locations that had been considered during past development phases. Neal Messer shared conflicts from the use of taxpayer dollars standpoint. Brad Hardigan shared information about past repairs. Discussion continued about the feasibility, clarity of expectations, and future stability of the operations of SW Speedway.

Dean Franchuk made a MOTION to approve the bid presented by Tooz Construction for \$ 230,000 for SW Speedway repairs. Bernie Marsh SECONDED. A discussion was had about the clarity of the bid sent to Tooz Construction. Roll call vote. Cory White- Aye, Bernie Marsh- Aye, Neal Messer- No, Paul Clarys- Aye, Dean Francuk- Aye, Chairman Courtney Presthus- abstained, Vice Chairman Dustin Elkins- Aye. Motion carries.

Cory White made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting. Bernie Marsh SECONDED. All voted Aye, motion carries.



Courtney Presthus, Chairman



Karen Richard, Auditor