

PUBLIC NOTICE OF A MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE on AGING OF THE CITY OF MANITOWOC

COA Meeting Minutes May 11, 2026

Classroom
Manitowoc Senior Center

The Committee on Aging consists of eight members to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Common Council for three-year terms pursuant to 3.27. The Committee shall recommend to the Common Council a Director for the Committee on Aging who shall serve for a three-year term under the direction of the Director of Parks and Recreation.

Present: A Brixius (Chair), D Bonk, M Schultz, J Kramer, J Hudon, R Malzahn, L Kalista , A Chizek, M Michels (staff), B Wetenkamp (staff)

1. Meeting called to order at 1:31 pm by A. Brixius
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Discussion and approval of minutes of previous meeting (March 2026)
 - (a) Motion to approve:
 - i. Made by D Bonk
 - ii. Second: L Kalist
 - iii. All in favor
4. Public Input
 - (a) Wendy Hutterer, Director of the ADRC of the Lakeshore
 - i. A bill passed in regards to the Health Care Power of Attorney
 1. If a patient is in the hospital, incapacitated, and has no advance directive or legal decision-maker, **a** family member can act as a *patient's representative* to decide post-hospital placement (e.g., CBRF or nursing home)
 - a. Concern: Are these the correct people to make health decisions or the decision to put someone in a nursing home
 - i. Examples: they be family from a from a bad divorce, estranged from the family, or even have malicious intent
 - ii. There is not professional assessment after a certain amount of time from these decisions and there is no follow-up so the POA won't change (unless someone brings challenges the POA decision in court proceedings)
 - b. Positives: This can be helpful if someone is being taken advantage of without knowing it
 - i. Example: a roommate is forcing someone to give them money that they shouldn't have to give - this law allows for family to go to a doctor and deem their family member incapacitated and so they can then get involved.
 - ii. Best thing to do is update your healthcare power of attorney
 1. At your doctor's office
 2. At a health clinic
 3. Get the form on-line: [Power of Attorney for Healthcare](#)
5. Chair Person's Report
 - (a) April Periscope
 - i. Page 5: COA Spotlight
 - (b) May Periscope
 - i. Page 6: COA Meeting
 - (c) Bulletin Board is up by the newsletters

(d) Comment/Suggestion Box – A Brixius is still working on this

(e) Meetings:

- i. Senior Resource Meeting – April 9th
- ii. DPI Committee Meeting (last meeting) – April 1st
 - 1. Approved week long Open House
- iii. Parks and Rec Committee meeting (new)
 - 1. 4th Monday of the month

(f) COA meetings

- i. If committee members feel intimidated at meetings, A Brixius apologizes for allowing this to happen
 - 1. It is important for the people appointed to this committee to be involved but also to stay on task
 - a. COA is an advisory committee
 - i. Many items are not pertinent to this committee's mission
 - b. Not everything needs to be brought to the committee and /or old business does not need to be rehashed multiple times.
 - c. Evaluate your role on this committee and with this committee's mission
 - d. If you feel your input is being "shot down", please bring it to A Brixius' attention and he will evaluate
 - i. Is this a committee issue
 - ii. Has the issue been resolved by the time of the next COA meeting
 - iii. Has the issue already been acted on in any previous meetings
- ii. Any issues not pertaining to the committee's mission should be brought to staff.
 - 1. Staff is highly qualified to handle many issues as they see appropriate
- iii. Life evolves and this committee has evolved and now the city departments are making a change as well. Be appropriately active.

(g) Suggestion box:

None

(h) General Comments

None

6. Sr. Center Staff Report

(a) Introduction of Brock Wetenkamp – Parks and Recreation Director

- i. Background
 - 1. Prior to 2011, the City of Manitowoc operated with a separate Parks and Recreation Department. Due to budget constraints that year, Parks and Rec was consolidated into the newly formed Department of Public Infrastructure.
 - 2. The Department of Public Infrastructure is a very large department consisting of engineering, transit, fleet management, buildings and grounds, streets and park and rec divisions.
- ii. New Model
 - 1. Standalone Department – as it was prior to 2011 – but with a different staffing model
- iii. Rationale for Change
 - 1. Parks and Rec is a top priority for our current City leadership. Parks and Recreation play a vital role in quality of life, community engagement and economic development. By creating a dedicated department, City leadership sends a clear message that parks and recreation are a cornerstone of our local government and deserve focused leadership and resources.

2. Identity and Focus – A standalone department allows parks and recreation to concentrate solely on its mission: maintain and improving parks, recreation programs and facilities for all residents.
 3. Customer Service Improvements – Relocating all parks and recreation administration to the Senior Center enhances accessibility and customer service to the public.
- iv. Staffing Model
1. DPI – Director PI, Park and Rec Manager, Park Planner, ½ admin, 2 Team leads, 5 Laborers
 2. Parks and Recreation Department – Director P&R (Brock W), Park Supervisor (Dave B), Rec Supervisor (Michelle M), 1.5 admin (Sandy R, Tari G), 5 Laborers
- v. Overall
1. The restructuring is about vision and commitment. Parks and recreation deserves their own identity and leadership to ensure continued progress and innovation.
 2. Although the current change is budget neutral, having focused leadership puts this department in position to negotiate for future personnel to create a Park and Rec Department that provides the best opportunities and amenities for the City of Manitowoc.
- (b) Current Programs and Schedule updates
- i. New Yoga instructor started May 6th for Wednesday classes
 - ii. Interview another today for Monday classes
- (c) Trips (completed)
- i. April 16: Daddy D's Fifties Show at Riverside Theater
 1. Volunteer escort
 2. 40 participants
 3. Good show but they were short staffed so people were angry they didn't get coffee fast enough
 - ii. April 20: I Love Lucy and Chocolate in Illinois
 1. Volunteer escort
 2. 47 registered
 3. Good feedback on the stops
 - a. Some were happy with the Culvers stop on the way home, some were not
 - iii. May 5: Spring Swing at Sanfilippo Estate in Illinois
 1. Personalized escort
 2. 2 registered as of April 24
- (d) Trips (advertised)
- i. May 7-10: Holland Tulip Time in Michigan
 1. Personalized escort
 2. 5 registered as of February 24
 - a. Full as this is all the seats that we requested and they didn't have more to release as they were full also
 - ii. June 11: Golden Oldies at Riverside Theater
 1. Volunteer escort
 2. 24 registered as of April 24
 - iii. June 16-20: Mississippi River Cruise
 1. Personalized escort
 2. 20 registered as of April 24
 - a. We did add more seats but now they are full
 - iv. June 30: Chain of Lakes
 1. Volunteer escort
 2. 52 registered with 4 on waitlist as of April 24
 - v. July 9: Chicago: Trams, Trolleys & Tides
 1. Personalized escort
 2. 27 signed up as of April 24

- vi. August 6: Lake Geneva Mailboat
 - 1. Volunteer escort
 - 2. 11 registered as of April 24
 - 3. If we don't see more registrations we will change the number of seats and have a Personalized escort
 - (e) September 3: SC Johnson
 - i. Michelle to escort
 - ii. 9 registered as of April 24
 - (f) October 1: Daddy D's Buddy Holly
 - i. Volunteer escort
 - ii. 16 registered as of April 24
 - (g) October 2: Epic/Verona
 - i. Volunteer escort
 - ii. 7 registered as of April 24
 - (h) Fundraisers (completed)
 - i. n/a
 - (i) none Fundraisers (in the works)
 - i. May 13: Health Fair
 - ii. July 15-17: Rummage Sale & Fry-Out
 - (j) Special Events (completed)
 - i. March 17: St Patrick's Day Party
 - 1. Cancelled due to weather – most of the city was shut down
 - (k) Special Events (upcoming)
 - i. Starting to look at Open House
 - ii. Council approved a one-week long Open House where everything will be open to anyone 50 and over to visit and enjoy activities and classes
 - (l) Continue to invite people/businesses to give educational and informational presentations
 - i. Open to the public
 - (m) Questions, Comments and Concerns on Senior Center Report
 - None
- 7. Financial Report
 - None
- 8. Old Business
 - (a) Newsletter advertising and picture *re: March 9, 2026 R Malzahn*
 - i. Staff brought the sheet that they work off of to make sure all Senior Center programs are being advertised.
 - 1. This was done also when this issue was brought up in April of 2025
- 9. New Business
 - (a) J Hudon said the internet service in the weaving room is very spotty
 - i. M Michels will work with IT
 - (b) D Bonk was wondering what was up with the computers available for members
 - i. M Michels explained that one will be set-up but waiting for IT to schedule it, she will reach out to them again
 - (c) J Hudon was wondering if the Senior Center has a full-time maintenance person or not
 - i. B Wetenkamp explained that Senior Center and the Police Department share a maintenance person
 - 1. The senior center also has a limited part time employee
 - (d) R Malzahn requests that the weaving room floors be scrubbed as it's been many years
 - i. Building and Grounds will have to carefully move all the looms to one side and then do the floor, and then move them to the other side and do the floor, and then move them all back in place
 - ii. M Michels will send a Building and Grounds ticket for this
- 10. Adjourn – Next meeting July 13, 2026 at 1:30 pm

- (a) Motion to adjourn: J Kramer
- (b) Second: M Schultz
- (c) All in favor
 - i. Meeting adjourned at 2:39 pm

If you need accommodations for this meeting, please notify the City Clerk's office at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting (or as soon as possible after the meeting is posted, if posted less than 48 hours prior to the meeting time) at 686-6950, or TDD 686-6552.

Dated this 10th day of March, 2026

—

Michelle Michels
Recreation Supervisor

E-MAIL:

Clerk's Office
Mayor's Office
City Managers
Committee Members
Parks and Recreation Committee