

# 90 day review

## Town of Marion – Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

### 90-Day Review Summary

**Date:** July 2025

**Prepared by:** Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

## I. Recreational Sports Overview

### Baseball & Softball

- **Participation:**
- 118 youth registered.
- Participants included 3 players from Ontario (softball) and 4 from Walworth (Majors).
- **Highlights:**
- Successful Opening Day.
- Majors played a game against Lyons; Minors preparing for a tournament.
- **Challenges:**
- Weather-related disruptions.
- Low parent volunteer turnout; communication sent to families requesting assistance with scorekeeping.
- **Field Improvements:**
- Possible proposal in progress for clay/dirt renovation based on support from community businesses
- Local businesses have offered to contribute materials/services.

### Fall Baseball Planning

- **Schedule:**
- T-Ball (Mondays), Grasshoppers (Tuesdays) – September 8 through October 7.
- Sign ups to be held first two weeks of August

### Soccer

- **Season Kickoff:** Started smoothly 7/8.
- **Field Setup Concerns:**
- Inconsistent field sizes and uneven ground.
- Ideal long-term solution: install permanent field pins to preserve consistent layout and avoid uneven spots.
- **Parking Issues:**
- Parking on fields has potential to damaged fields, posing safety concern
- Inadequate parking space noted; further discussion recommended.

## II. Facilities & Infrastructure

- **Bleachers:** Repaired and repainted.
- **Pests:** No current signs of pest issues.

## III. Budget Recommendations Discussed

- **Port-A-Potties & Bathrooms:**
- Budget line recommended to place port-a-potties earlier in the year or open lodge restrooms sooner.
- **Kitchen Pantry:**
- Request for budget line to install doors on lodge pantry/cabinets (missing summer rec snacks).

- **Parking Barriers:**
- Suggest budget allocation for physical barriers to prevent vehicle traffic on grass/fields.
- **Recreation Reserve Fund:**
- Consider creating a reserve fund using a portion of program revenue for reinvestment that normally falls into a general reserve fund.
- **Matching Funds for Grants:**
- Portion of reserve funds could be earmarked for future grant matches.

#### IV. Long-Term Capital Improvement Ideas

- **Parking Enhancements:**
- Add a new lot behind the fields.
- Reconfigure front lot to maximize available space.
- **Park Expansion:**
- Explore opportunities to increase field sizes and park footprint.
- **Field Regrading:**
- Address uneven surfaces to improve safety and quality of play.
- **Lodge Modifications:**
- Develop rental space inside the lodge for community groups (e.g., Scouts, 4H) for lockable storage with customized doors featuring group logos/info.
- Would serve as an operations hub for youth organizations.
- Would require analysis of current lodge usage and available space.
- **Additional Structures:**
- Add dugouts to back fields.
- Future planning consideration through a comprehensive planning process.
- **Multi-Purpose Courts:**
- Discussed if basketball courts could accommodate tennis/pickleball.

#### V. Recreation Director Role

- **Job Description:**
- Duties discussed and agreed upon with job description to be sent to the board for review
- **Duties May Include:**
- Scheduling and coordination of all programs.
- Volunteer communication and delegation.
- Team formation and equipment oversight.
- Day-to-day operational management.
- Conflict resolution and central point of contact.
- **Pay Scale:** discussed

#### VI. Community Engagement & Trail Programs

- **Trail Collaboration:**
- Considering development with Trail Works, Scouts, and local landowners.
- A "Hiking Challenge" development discussed, potentially tracked via a mobile Notes App (funding uncertain).
- **Trail Expansion:**
- Marion currently lacks official trails; efforts are underway to establish a starting point.
- **Geocaching:**
- Consider planning for a community Adventure Lab experience.
- **Sponsorship Opportunities:**

- Exploring partnerships with FL Trail Town and local wineries/breweries as hike endpoints.

## **VII. Follow-Up Items for Town Board**

- **AED Signage:**
- Still missing from lodge exterior; a centralized outdoor AED is requested.
- Concern raised about travel soccer teams not having AED access.
- **Field Safety:**
- Further discussion needed regarding prevention of vehicles on playing fields due to injury risk and field damage
- **Restroom Signage:**
- Request for directional signage pointing to open restrooms.
- **Storage Locker:**
- Ongoing follow-up on previous discussions regarding locker availability and use.