

Bondurant Parks and Recreation Board
Minutes
April 16, 2026

1. Roll Call
 - Present: Marian Collison, Nic Robinson, Emily Karwoski, Aaron Rasmussen, Mike Mackin
 - Absent: Seth Williams
 - Excused: Penny Moberly
 - City Officials Present: City Administrator Marketa Oliver, Communications & Events Coordinator Katie Klus
2. Call to Order and Declaring a Quorum
 - Chair Karwoski called the meeting to order at 6:07pm and declared a quorum.
3. Abstentions declared
4. Approval of Minutes
 - No issues or amendments to minutes from 3/19/26. Motion by Robinson, seconded by Rasmussen, to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Vote on Motion 5-0. Motion carried.
 - a. -3/19/26 Parks & Recreation Board Minutes
5. Perfecting and Approval of the Agenda
 - Motion by Robinson, seconded by Collison, to approve the agenda. Vote on Motion 5-0. Motion carried.
6. Guests requesting to address the Parks Board
 - Chelsea Terpstra was present. She did not address the Board at this time but included her thoughts later in the meeting. You can find her input in the Discussion item.
7. Action Items
 - a. -Discussion and possible resolution recommending adopting pricing structure to Park Facilities
 - The Board approved the recommendation to City Council to adopt pricing structure to outdoor park shelter facilities, with the amendment that City-recognized holidays be identified and residents charged an additional \$50 and non-residents be charged an additional \$100. This was motioned by Robinson and seconded by Mackin. Vote on Motion 5-0.
8. Discussion Items -

- Silo Mural Art Concept - Robinson initiated the discussion regarding the feedback they were receiving about the Silo Mural Concept. See the discussion notes below. Also, Robinson asked for clarification regarding an email from the City Clerk related to rolling quorum. Staff explained that board members should not communicate with one another via email outside of a public meeting, nor engage in sequential one-on-one discussions that could constitute a rolling quorum. All substantive discussion must occur in a properly noticed public meeting to ensure transparency and public access.

Board members shared that they had received feedback from several members of the public, and some had also reviewed comments on the Bondurant community page. The feedback reflected a range of perspectives on the mural concept.

The board acknowledged and appreciated the input that had been shared. At the same time, it was noted that the number of individuals providing feedback represents a relatively small portion of the approximately 10,000 residents in the community and may not fully capture the broader range of community sentiment.

The board also recognized from the outset that a project of this nature would not result in unanimous agreement, and that differing opinions are a natural part of public art discussions. Overall, there was a shared understanding of the value of public feedback, along with a willingness to consider those perspectives as part of continuing to refine the concept moving forward.

There was also discussion regarding local artists and their representation in the selection process. It was reiterated that the Request For Qualifications was open to any interested applicants, including local artists. Submissions from local artists were reviewed and evaluated using the same scoring rubric as all other applicants. While there was appreciation for the local interest, the highest-scoring artists ultimately selected to move forward demonstrated stronger experience in large-scale installations and interactive components, which were key requirements of the project.

Context for Concept Development

During the discussion, there were questions about how the revised concept had been developed and what sources informed the artist's direction.

Staff noted that the artist had drawn from the Art, Culture, and Wayfinding Master Plan, as identified in the Request for Proposals as reviewed by the board. They also conducted direct outreach to individuals within the Bondurant community. It was also reiterated that the master plan itself was developed through a process that included substantial community engagement and feedback. Key themes and sentiments captured in that plan reinforced that the direction being explored is rooted in previously gathered community input, rather than developed in isolation.

At the same time, some board members expressed that, in the revision process, elements representing the "past" within the broader past, present, and future theme may have been reduced too significantly. This prompted additional discussion around how to better balance those time-based elements moving forward.

There was also discussion around the distinction between creating something that reads as art versus something that reads as a more literal or illustrative "picture," with a preference toward a more artistic approach.

Artist Concept Review

The board reviewed each of the concepts originally submitted through the RFP to identify elements that could help inform the next iteration of the mural. There was also interest in reducing the emphasis on generalized natural elements while strengthening the connection to Bondurant's agricultural roots in a more intentional way.

AJ Davis

The board reviewed the AJ Davis concept and, overall, there were no elements that strongly resonated or were identified as directionally useful for the next iteration.

Brightsidars

The board did not respond positively to the central figures, particularly the boy and the birds. The inclusion of the fox was also viewed as overly symbolic.

At the same time, there were elements within the concept that did resonate. The board appreciated the contrast and variation in the sky, noting that it created visual interest and depth at scale. The inclusion of the railroad was also seen as a strong and meaningful representation of Bondurant's history and identity.

Guido

Guido did not submit a developed concept as part of the RFP process. Because of this, the board did not have a visual or compositional direction to evaluate or discuss.

Heesco

The Heesco concept generated discussion around both representation and level of literalness. The board did not respond positively to the inclusion of older figures, as they did not feel representative of the community or aligned with the desired tone moving forward. Similarly, elements such as the combine were viewed as overly literal and too narrowly focused in how they represented agriculture.

There was a general sense that the concept relied too heavily on specific imagery rather than allowing for a broader or more interpretive approach.

Yanoe x Zoueh

The board responded positively to the use of corn leaves and prairie vegetation, which helped ground the mural in a recognizable and regionally appropriate landscape. Prairie flowers were also well received as a way to reference agricultural roots and reinforce a sense of place without becoming overly literal.

The sky was consistently identified—nearly unanimously—as one of the strongest aspects of the concept, particularly in how it contributed to scale, openness, and visual impact. The presence of the railroad was also noted as a strong and meaningful representation of Bondurant's history and identity.

There were, however, elements that the board felt should be refined. The inclusion of older figures did not resonate, and the depiction of the woman was noted as feeling too old-fashioned and not aligned with the vision to represent the future.

The board felt the concept needed to incorporate a stronger sense of forward movement within the composition. One idea discussed was allowing the railroad to transition into trails, creating a sense of continuation without a defined endpoint, reflecting the idea that the future of the community is still evolving. However, it was also noted that concept was already present in other public art in Bondurant.

Additional Discussion

During the discussion, individual board member perspectives were shared and helped shape the overall direction of the conversation.

Robinson noted that feedback he had received from residents reflected a range of opinions and emphasized the importance of finding a balance between concepts that feel too literal and those that lean too far into a more modern or abstract direction. He described the current concepts as falling between two extremes, “hokey farm town” and “edgy modern” and expressed interest in identifying a more grounded middle direction. He also stated that he did not support the inclusion of tractors or agricultural implements directly within the painted mural. In addition, Robinson noted that augmented reality elements can evolve over time, and as a result, his focus was on ensuring that the painted mural itself is resolved appropriately.

Robinson also referenced the Central District Park plan as a helpful framework for thinking about how the concept could transition from agriculture into a more urbanized future. He noted that the plan illustrates a progression where recreational space represents the present, adjacent to mixed-use retail and commercial development reflecting future growth, while still being grounded in agricultural land and native prairie plantings. This layering of uses and timeframes aligns with the broader past, present, and future theme and offers a way to visually organize that transition within the mural, and staff noted that this document can be provided to the artist as a reference to help inform the next iteration of the concept.

Rasmussen shared that he did not respond positively to the use of color in the current concept and liked the original color palette from the initial concept of the selected artist. He also did not like the inclusion of animals and indicated a preference for elements from the original concept direction. He also raised questions about how feedback is being communicated to the artist and suggested that more direct coordination may be helpful. Klus noted that next steps with the artist include a virtual meeting specifically with the Mayor and Parks and Recreation Board Chair.

Karwoski emphasized the importance of long-term maintenance and feasibility, noting that the selected artist’s approach stood out by a wide margin compared to the other proposals in this regard. She also referenced the expectations tied to the Destination Iowa grant, noting that the significant level of funding reflects the site’s potential to become a destination for visitors beyond the local community. In that context, she emphasized pursuing a concept that feels more artistic and less like a “picture,” rather than a simpler or collage-style approach such as the “Welcome to Altoona” mural. She also did not support the inclusion of older figures within the mural, as it doesn’t fully represent the community. Karwoski noted that the board had not responded well to any of the people portrayed in any of the concepts.

Mackin noted that while public feedback had been received, the number of responses represents a relatively small portion of the broader community. He expressed interest in strengthening the agricultural presence within the composition, while also maintaining a sense of forward movement or progression, including the idea of a trail to anywhere representing the future.

Collison observed that some of the public feedback may be influenced by familiarity with more simple or collage-style mural approaches, referencing examples such as the “Welcome to Altoona” mural, and noted that expectations around style may be shaping some of the responses being seen.

Council Member Lyman shared that he had also received outreach from residents and raised broader questions about what elements best represent the community. While he expressed concern with the amount of symbolism, he noted that he found a layered composition visually appealing. He suggested perhaps silhouettes of figures in the distance rather than people existing in detail in the foreground. He encouraged board members to remain engaged in the upcoming Council discussion.

Klus also referenced the artist's broader body of work, noting the use of layered patterning as a consistent element across their designs. She encouraged the board to consider how pattern could be incorporated in a way that subtly reinforces placemaking. As part of that discussion, the board identified potential pattern references rooted in the community, including the diagonal alignment of Highway 65 and the linear striping found in harvested hay fields. Klus noted that multiple historical images from the Bondurant centennial materials depicted hay fields, which could provide a grounded and regionally relevant source of visual pattern.

Across the discussion, there was also a recurring theme of refining the balance between natural and agricultural elements. Several members expressed interest in reducing the emphasis on general nature while strengthening the connection to Bondurant's agricultural roots in a way that feels integrated but not overly literal.

Next Steps

Pending approval of the resolutions at the City Council meeting on Monday, 4/20/26, the artist will meet with the Mayor, Parks & Recreation Board Chair, and staff to allow for more direct communication and alignment on the next iteration of the concept. The discussion at that meeting will also assist Karwoski, as Board Chair, in conveying the Parks & Recreation Board's direction. Mackin also expressed interest in attending the 4/20/26 Council meeting to remain engaged in the discussion.

Staff confirmed that, even with the additional concept revisions, the project remains on a schedule that can meet grant requirements.

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At the conclusion of the mural discussion, Chelsea Terpstra, a Bondurant resident, expressed her appreciation to the board for the time, care, and attention they dedicated to the process, noting the level of thoughtfulness and depth reflected throughout the discussion and the consideration given to the community.

9. Reports and Comments:

- a. -City Administrator Report
 - Ribbon Cutting scheduled following Summerfest parade
 - Ribbon Cutting for Wolf Creek Basketball/Pickleball Court - May 18th at 5:15pm
- b. -Communications & Events Coordinator Report
 - Rails2Trail is coming up on 4/25/26
 - Bondu Blues, Brews & BBQ will have a larger art component thanks to a grant from Bravo Des Moines.
 - America 250 late summer event coming up in August. If the Parks &

Rec Board is interested in getting involved, they can contact Katie.
- Tree Sale is open now and trees are available for purchase on the
Parks & Recreation reservation site.

10. Adjournment

Katie Klus
Communication and Events Coordinator

ATTEST:

Emily Karwoski
Board Chair

Run On 04/14/2026 11:40 AM
Run By Katie Klus
From 09/01/2025 12:00 AM
To 04/14/2026 11:59 PM
Facilities Multiple (4)
Facility Tags Rentable Facilities
Reservation Type Customer Reservation, Internal Reservation

Shelter Report 4.14.26

City Park City Park Shelter

Facility	Rental Date/Time	Type	Status	Total Paid
City Park Shelter	09/21/2025 03:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$75.00
City Park Shelter	09/26/2025 03:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$50.00
City Park Shelter	09/27/2025 03:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$50.00
City Park Shelter	09/28/2025 07:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$75.00
City Park Shelter	10/11/2025 07:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$100.00
City Park Shelter	10/12/2025 07:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$100.00
City Park Shelter	10/25/2025 03:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$70.00
City Park Shelter	10/26/2025 07:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$50.00
City Park Shelter	04/11/2026 07:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$125.00
				\$695.00

Lake Petocka Lake Petocka South Shelter

Facility	Rental Date/Time	Type	Status	Total Paid
Lake Petocka South Shelter	09/06/2025 07:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$50.00
Lake Petocka South Shelter	09/07/2025 07:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$100.00
Lake Petocka South Shelter	09/13/2025 07:00 AM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$100.00
Lake Petocka South Shelter	09/14/2025 03:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$50.00
Lake Petocka South Shelter	09/19/2025 03:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$50.00
Lake Petocka South Shelter	09/21/2025 07:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$50.00
Lake Petocka South Shelter	10/04/2025 07:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$75.00
Lake Petocka South Shelter	10/19/2025 07:00 AM - 02:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$50.00
				\$525.00

Lake Petocka Volleyball Shelter

Facility	Rental Date/Time	Type	Status	Total Paid
Volleyball Shelter	09/13/2025 03:00 PM - 10:00 PM	Customer Reservation		\$75.00

Totals for Shelter Report 4.14.26				\$75.00
				\$1,295.00