



Wauwatosa, WI

Civic Celebration Commission

Meeting Minutes - Final

7725 W. North Avenue
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Thursday, March 12, 2026

7:00 PM

Committee Room #1

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Robert Brunow called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present 10 Commissioner, Chair Robert Brunow
 Commissioner Mike Anich
 Commissioner Edward Bearden
 Commissioner Dan Lofy
 Commissioner Pat Premetz
 Commissioner Brit Swisher
 Commissioner Jamie Swisher
 Commissioner Vera Westphal
 Commissioner Matt Wicker
 Alderperson Liaison Mike Morgan

Excused 1 Commissioner Wendy Venske

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2026 Fireworks site discussion

[26-0502](#)

Report by Commission Chairperson Robert Brunow

We have one item on our agenda tonight, that being a discussion of the 2026 fireworks site.

The purpose of the meeting is to review and discuss the various options for a possible location to shoot off fireworks for our July 4, 2026, fireworks show and hopefully come to a decision. The Mayor, City Administrator, and representatives from the Fire and Police departments were specially invited to the meeting to provide their input in the discussion; however, they were not in attendance. Have compiled a list of possible locations discussed or reviewed by City officials and the commission to this point. We need to review the pros and cons for the locations listed and hopefully narrow things down as we are running out of time.

Report by member Matt Wicker

The previous location, along Swan Blvd., that was discussed at our previous meeting, which had been proposed by the City Administrator, was shot down by Milwaukee County. It was determined that the launch area, as well as a large portion of the blast zone, is under the control of Milwaukee County and would therefore require a special permit from Milwaukee County Parks, which would likely not be approved. Additional permits would also probably be needed from MMSD, as well as the WI DNR, as they have control of properties in the blast area as well. These permits are also not likely to be issued.

An additional possible nearby location at the Forest Exploration Center, suggested by the City Public Works director, is also not viable. It is owned by the WI DNR, which does not allow fireworks to be shot off from its property.

An extensive discussion of the sites on the list provided by Chairperson Robert Brunow took place.

Discussion of the pro's and cons of each was, as well as the likelihood of gaining permission at each, was

discussed. A location of the Wisconsin Lutheran Athletic Complex area was added to the list for discussion.

After extensive discussion, a motion was made by member Dan Lofy to continue exploring the following sites as possible viable options: Wisconsin Lutheran Athletic Complex, Mount Mary College, Hart Park Grounds & 63rd & State areas.

Motion 2nd by member William (Brit) Swisher

Vote: Aye (Unanimous vote of all Commission members present)

No (None)

Motion Carries

Chairperson Robert Brunow said he would continue looking into the Wisconsin Lutheran and Mount Mary sites; Member Matt Wicker said he would continue looking at the possibility of Hart Park , as well as the 63rd & State locations.

After completion of the vote, Alderperson Mike Morgan stated that he was informed that the City Administrator was talking to Milwaukee County, through County Supervisor Shawn Rolland, about the site along Swan Blvd. He however, did not know how that conversation went or why the City Administrator was not in attendance at the meeting to discuss the issue. Members expressed that the Commission could not wait, that time is running out, and that we needed to button things down at our next meeting scheduled for 3/26/26 at 7:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 P.M.