

**La Porte Park and Recreation Department
Park Board Minutes
January 15, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes, who led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Also in attendance were Nicole Messacar, Drew Mullen, Kyleen Fuller, Jake Heulat, Mark Schreiber, Pam Carroil, Kyle Cashmer, Brett Binversie, Karyl Feikes, and Roberta Mumaw.

Public Comment

Mayor Dermody thanked the Park Board members for serving on the Board. There will be a Board member training in February for all Board members. Mayor Dermody endorsed the Red Wine and Brew fest that will be coming to the Park in July. This is a great community event that brings a lot of the community members into the Park, and the money benefits a great cause going to area first responders.

Election of Officers

Nicole Messacar made a motion to maintain the same slate of officers: Mitch Feikes, President, Nicole Messacar, Vice President, and Roberta Mumaw, Secretary. The motion was seconded by Kyleen Fuller. Motion passed unanimously.

Recognitions

Mark Schreiber recognized Brent Steck on his retirement after 30 years of working for the Park Department. There will be luncheon Friday and all Board members are invited.

Minutes

The minutes from the previous month's meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Drew Mullen.

Bills and Claims

A motion to approve the bills and claims was unanimously approved on a motion by Kyleen Fuller, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

Sub-Committee Reports

None

Old Business

Nicole Messacar informed the Board that she is trying to schedule a meeting with Mark Schreiber and Nick Minnich to review the Army Corp of Engineer plan. Nicole spoke to the new board members on details of this project.

New Business

Mark Schreiber requested on behalf of Bethany Church the use of Stone Lake Beach for the Red, Wine and Brew Fest on July 3 with set up on July 2, also for permission to park off the road way, vehicles to be off roadway (support vehicles that may be needed), extended Park hours on July 2 for overnight security and July 3 for clean-up and tear down. A motion was made by Kyleen Fuller to approve the request by Bethany Lutheran Church for Red Wine and Brew, seconded by Jake Heulat. Nicole Messacar questioned at what point public access would be restricted? Mark Schreiber stated that restrictions would begin once the Park closes on July 2nd and would continue the entire of July 3. The entire Stone

Lake area from Grangemouth to Waverly. Parking will be in the lots and overflow will be off road. Rotary fields will be used if the conditions are dry. For a first year event at this location everything ran smoothly with only minor issues that have been addressed. There is increased law enforcement at this event as proceeds benefit local law enforcement and first responders. Lake access is not permissible the day of event and DNR will be onsite to monitor the water area so that no one approaches the event via the waterfront. There were 150 volunteers with an attendance of 2000. With DNR creating a perimeter in the lake it enabled the fireworks to be shot off a barge which allowed approximately 500 to watch from the lake, with another 500 watching from Lakeshore Drive. A discussion was held regarding the access to vendors and some issues that Jake Heulat had heard from being a visitor to the event. Mark Schreiber stated that this is something that the Park Department doesn't deal with, but he could mention it to the organizer. Nicole Messacar questioned the amount that the organization paid to use the area. Mark Schreiber stated the group paid \$1200. This amount was based on what they had paid in previous years at a different venue. Mark feels that this amount more than exceeded the departments expenses. As most of the labor came from moving tables to the event, as well as 2 employees who worked the evening shift to keep the restrooms cleaned and stocked. Nicole Messacar feels that the fee established was not done in a very formal way. Mark Schreiber stated that it is not formal, as there is not a fee established for this type of event. Nicole Messacar feels that the Civic may be a better venue for this event. She does not like the idea of limiting access to a public beach on a holiday weekend. Mark Schreiber stated that this is a great benefit to the community as well as a great way for the Parks to be showcased. Jake Heulat feels that it will bring more awareness to the beach area fro those who may not be aware of what the area has to offer. Drew Mullen stated that the benefits of this event far outweigh the costs. Kyleen Fuller also feels that having 2000 people in the park is very beneficial and there are other water areas for families to enjoy. Mark Schreiber has been very adamant that the beach is ready for the public on July 4. There may be an excessive number of picnic tables in the area, but for the most part everything will be removed from the area before it opens to the public on July 4. The motion to allow the use of Stone Lake Beach area for Red Wine and Brew Fest on July 3, to allow off road parking, and support vehicles to drive off road, and also to extend park hours on July 2 to allow for overnight security and extended hours on July 3 to allow for cleanup of the event passed 3-1 with Nicole Messacar voting against.

Kyle Cashmer has asked the Board for permission to establish a fee of \$30 for a 9-hole couples league that will be held on Friday nights. Nicole Messacar made a motion to establish a \$30 fee for the 9-hole couples league, seconded by Jake Heulat. Motion passed unanimously.

Kyle Cashmer proposed a \$40 per hour fee to rent out the Club room area. A motion to approve the fee was made by Kyleen Fuller, seconded by Nicole Messacar. Kyle stated this would only be available during the off season. Motion passed unanimously.

Kyle Cashmer requested permission to attend the spring PGA meeting in Muncie. There is a \$100 registration fee, as well as the hotel fee of \$126 per night (2 nights). The request was approved with an amount not to exceed \$500 on a motion made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Drew Mullen.

Board Member/Department Head comments

Mark Schreiber invited the new Board members to introduce themselves:

Drew Mullen stated that he is an avid biker in the area and is very interested in looking at ways to make more connections to the current bike trails and connecting different areas of the Parks. Drew is very passionate about active transportation in general as well as getting people to adopt healthier lifestyles.

Jake Heulat has a young family who is becoming active in the parks and he looks forward to being a part of the Park Board.

Kyleen Fuller has been active in the Parks and Park activities for some time having participated in programs such as yoga and art camp as well as biking and hiking in the area. Mrs. Fuller appreciates the opportunity to serve on the Park Board.

Pam Carroll informed the Board that 161 participants registered for our youth sports programs during our first night of sign ups. There will be another night of sign ups Thursday at the Civic.

Mitch Feikes informed the Board that the work on the Fox Park concession/restroom buildings continues. The roof has been installed on the main building with inside work to follow. Mitch is also working with Laura Cutler to expand the musical instruments throughout the City. The goal is to have 10 instruments installed with a map created with all locations listed.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Jake Heulat.



Mitch Feikes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 2-19-20