

**La Porte Park and Recreation Department
Park Board Minutes
March 20, 2019**

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes. Also in attendance were: Karen Ellison, Jessica Romine, Nicole Messacar, Zach Coulter, Mark Schreiber, Pam Carroll, Kyle Cashmer, Brett Binversie, Karyl Felkes, and Roberta Mumaw.

Mitch Feikes led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognitions

None

Minutes

The previous month's minutes were unanimously approved on a motion made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Zach Coulter.

Bills/Claims

The bills and claims were unanimously approved on a motion by Jessica Romine, seconded by Karen Ellison.

Public Comment

None

Sub-Committee Reports

None

Old Business

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that through Patronicity campaign there has been \$81,660.00 raised for the renovation of Fort La Play Porte. This by far exceeded our goal of \$50,000. Play By Design will be in town on April 11 for a pre-construction meeting, at this time we will get a clearer view of what the build will look like, get an idea of how many volunteers will be required for each shift.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that the dedication for the Chessie Trail will take place March 29 and at this time Mark is asking that the Board accept the property and the infra structure that is involved in the Chessie Trail as park land. This is the property this begins at Kiwanis-Teledyne park to Truesdell Ave. We will provide the maintenance on the property and this will be listed as an asset as well as out 17th City Park. A motion to accept the property was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jessica Romine. A discussion was held regarding the need for additional easements along the route. The City has the legal description for the property. There are some easements that need to be obtained and the City is currently working on getting those in place. The motion to adopt the Chessie Trail as park property was passed unanimously.

New Business

Mark Schreiber has had a request from The Stepping Stone organization to hold their 5K on May 18 at Shelter #4 in Kesling Park, and they have also requested a waiving of fees for the event. Zach Coulter is the Vice President for this organization and stated that the organization is trying to expand on their

"Walk a Mile In Her Shoes" event by holding a super hero themed 5K event. Both events raise money for domestic violence. The motion to waive the fees for the Stepping Stone 5K event at Kesling Park was made by Jessica Romine, seconded by Nicole Messacar. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber has been approached by the downtown director regarding summer movie nights in Kesling Park. The La Porte Jaycees received some grant money to purchase an inflatable movie screen which will be used for the movie nights. There will be several movie nights held with one being on the Civic Lawn, but this one will be at Kesling Park near Fort La Play Porte utilizing shelter #4. The event will be on August 9 and they are requesting that the fees for the shelter rented be waived. Nicole Messacar made a motion to waive the fees for this event, seconded by Zach Coulter. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber presented a request from Mary Ann Richards, the CBDG program manager is working with the City Planner to organize a housing fair that will be held at the Civic Auditorium April 13. She has asked to place yard signs within the parks, however there will be no sign allowed at Kiwanis-Teledyne per previous board decision. A motion was made to place the signs for the housing fair in the parks by Jessica Romine, seconded by Nicole Messacar. Per previous Boards decision, placing signs in the Parks is a case by case basis with each case being presented to the Board. Mark Schreiber feels that because this is a City event and being held at the Civic there is justification to allow the signs to be placed. There will be only one sign placed at each location, and will be removed immediately following the event. The motion to allow the housing fair signs in park locations except Kiwanis-Teledyne passed unanimously.

Pam Carroll requested permission from the Board to approve the following youth sports fundraisers. There will be 5 give back nights for softball, tennis, t-ball, boys baseball (all levels), Nelson's Port a Pit Chicken (May 17), and the tennis discount cards for the tennis participants. New this year for the tennis program will be a hit a thon to be held around the last week of June. Each participant would collect funds based on how many balls they can hit over the net. A motion was made by Nicole Messacar to approve the request for all youth sports tag days, seconded by Zach Coulter. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that again this year the Park Department will be bringing back the Foodie Tuesdays at Unity Park. This year we will expand the event to run on Tuesdays June 4 – August 6 and at this time ask the Board to waive the standard 10% concession fee. This was a very popular event last year. A motion was made to waive the concession fee by Zach Coulter, seconded by Karen Ellison. Motion passed unanimously. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of bringing in additional food trucks to prevent the wait that some had experienced. This is something that could be looked at if the event continues to grow. The motion passed unanimously.

Pam Carroll presented to the Board pictures of art work that Heather Boklund, our tennis supervisor would like to paint on the handball court to brighten up the looks of the concrete. Heather has been working with Julie Pitman who is also working on the Fort La Play Porte committee. A motion was made to allow art work to be painted on the handball courts @ Kesling Park by Jessica Romine, seconded by Karen Ellison. Nicole Messacar voiced her concerns with the continued maintenance/upkeep of the

mural as time goes by. This has been discussed with Heather Boklund and will be worked out further before any work begins. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber presented to the Board the information for the Lightning Detection System to be placed within our parks. This is funded through a grant from the Healthcare Foundation and will provide six units to be placed at Lions Field, Stone Lake Beach, Beechwood Golf Course, the Skate Park, near the amphitheater and near the tennis courts and ball fields at Kesling Park. Each unit costs \$4,999 with an annual fee of \$405 per month. The units are reactors and will flash when lightning comes within a certain area and sets off an alarm when it is closer. Once the lightning is gone it will send a second alarm. There is the ability to turn the units off at night so as not to disturb the neighbors. This same system is used by the Noblesville park system and they are very satisfied with it. Nicole Messacar made the motion to approve the lightning detectors as presented, seconded by Jessica Romine. A discussion was held regarding whether the monthly fee would be paid year-round. The first year of monthly fees would potentially be paid out of the remaining grant funding. Going forward, this could be paid out of Park and or Recreation non-reverting accounts. Installation will be done by Park staff. These are part of safety initiative grant which will also include the outdoor AED's as well as the radar speed detectors. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that he has been in contact with Midwest Recreation to submit a quote that would incorporate a slide structure into the quote with the Playcube that has been previously approved by the Board to be placed in Fox Park, as there is a need to replace the current platform slide that is there. They were able to do that with a cost of \$78,806.00. We currently have \$65,000 appropriated through the grant from the Healthcare Foundation that also includes the climbing wall. There is also \$50,000 appropriated from the Urban Enterprise Association. This will allow us to pull the two funding sources together and get both the climbing structure as well as the slides. A motion was made to approve the recommendation for the play structure, by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jessica Romine.

Mark Schreiber presented information to the Board regarding waterfowl issues in the Park and what can be done to control the waterfowl population before it becomes necessary to take more drastic measures. Having a large goose population can become problematic due to the e-coli issues, the enjoyability in the parks as well. The Department would like to use certain habitat adjustments/modifications, or certain harassment techniques. These techniques would be used to discourage the geese from staying long term. These are non-lethal techniques that are recommended by the DNR. A motion was made by Nicole Messacar to all the Park Superintendent to abide by the DNR recommendations for waterfowl management, seconded by Jessica Romine. Nicole Messacar would like to have the fine for feeding waterfowl enforced. Mark Schreiber suggested asking for more patrols, and discussing what it would take to get more enforcement with the ordinance, or possibly increasing the fine which is currently \$50 per occurrence. Nicole Messacar would encourage approaching the City Council regarding a fee increase. Mark Schreiber recommended to possibly increase all fines later such as parking off the grass, leashed dogs, etc. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber presented a RFQ for the planning for Soldiers Memorial Park, which is another grant through the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte. There were 4 proposals received and after being

reviewed by the Park Superintendent, City Planner Beth Schrader, Mayor Krentz, and Nicole Messacar, the recommendation is to award to Planned Environmental Associates to do the planning for Soldiers Memorial Park. A motion was made by Karen Ellison to award the planning project to Planned Environmental Associates, seconded by Zach Coulter. Karen Ellison felt their bid was very informative and tailored to the specific project. Their proposal was \$20,500. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber spoke with the Board regarding correspondence he has received regarding smoking in the Parks. Specifically, where youth are. We currently have policies prohibiting smoking at youth sports events in the area where children or spectators would be, and the other would be in the family section at Stone Lake Beach. These are policies and do not carry any fines.

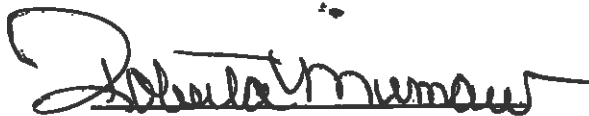
Nicole Messacar requested the Board receive copies of the contracts and current rates for the Huber Boat Launch on Pine Lake and Hermart's on Stone Lake. These contracts automatically renew in November if no changes are made. Nicole Messacar questioned if there needed to be an open bid process. Mark Schreiber will investigate how other communities handle these situations and will have more information prior to November when the contracts renew.

Mark Schreiber reminded the Board that the Chessie Trail Hybrid Beacon will be activated on March 26 with the dedication taking place on March 29. As well as the Healthcare Foundation of La Porte Outdoor Fitness Court will be dedicated on April 12 at 4pm @ Kesling Park.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Zach Coulter.



Mitch Felkes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 4-17-19