

La Porte Park and Recreation Department
Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes, who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also in attendance were Nicole Messacar, Joseph Ault, Karen Ellison, Mark Schreiber, Pam Carroll, Brett Binversie, Kyle Cashmer, Karyl Feikes and Roberta Mumaw.

RECOGNITIONS

Mark Schreiber introduced Susie Wireman to the Board. Susie has been hired in as the new Park and Recreation Assistant. Susie stated she has been a real estate agent for the past 20 years and the last 2 year were spent as the vice president of brokerage services for a major company. She has done fundraising as part of her volunteer work for the Valparaiso YMCA. Mark Schreiber stated Susie will be training on the "Jump Start" program. This is a fundraising program that was funded through a grant from the Healthcare Foundation.

MINUTES

The minutes from the previous month's meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Joe Ault, seconded by Karen Ellison.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

The bills and claims in the amount of \$104,963.20 were unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Joe Ault.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber would like to form a sub-committee to put together a final policy regarding solicitation on park property. The committee would be made up of 2 Park Board members, two staff members and City Attorney Nick Otis. Between the five members a policy would be drafted and brought to the Board for approval. Joe Ault and Mitch Feikes will represent the Park Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber presented the 2022 Annual Report to the Board for approval. A motion to accept the 2022 Annual report was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Nicole Messacar. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mark Schreiber updated the Board on the 5-year Master Plan. Public input sessions have been completed and staff priorities need to be set. Once this is complete a draft will be sent to the Board.

Mark Schreiber has had a request to park an RV over night the parking lot at Cummings Lodge on July 8 for an event at the lodge on July 9, 2023. There is a family member coming into town with some disability issues who will be staying in

the RV. Mark did state that the request is from his wife's family members. This would not conflict with the Saturday event at the lodge. The request was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Joe Ault.

Mark Schreiber stated that there will be a rededication concert at the Civic Auditorium on September 22. This concert would have an original artist and not a tribute band which will come at a higher price. The process requires a bid to be submitted to the band based on estimated ticket sales. Sponsorships would be sought for this event. Mark Schreiber is requesting the approval to spend up to \$100,000 to secure this band with funds being paid from Civic Non-Reverting. The motion to secure a band through the offer negotiation process up to \$100,000 was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Joe Ault. Approximately 2,000 seats would be available with additional table seating. To date all concerts at the Civic have been profitable. The motion passed unanimously.

BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Pam Carroll stated that WinterFest was a great success with all events being well attended.

Brett Binversie stated the upcoming concerts are the civic are:

JUMP (Van Halen) March 10

Grand Illusion (Styx) April 15

Queen Nation (Queen) May 20

Kyle Cashmer updated the Board on the equipment purchases for Beechwood. The fairway and rough mower have been purchased once approved by the City Council at their next meeting. Unfortunately, the delivery for the aerator will not be for 8-12 months.

Mark Schreiber stated that he, Pam Carroll and Mayor Dermody are looking at a potential facility for the Activity Center of Older Adults with a move expected in the spring.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Joe Ault, seconded by Karen Ellison.



Mitch Feikes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 3-15-23