

**LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 19, 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 Karen Ellison, Denise Bealor, Jake Huelat, Mark Schreiber, Pam Carroll, Brett Binversie, Kyle Cashmer, Karyl Feikes and Roberta Mumaw.

RECOGNITIONS

Mark Schreiber asked for a moment of silence for our Park Mechanic Chris Miller who recently passed away after a short illness. Chris began working with us in August 2020 and was a great mechanic and very versatile with the different equipment that we have. Chris was instrumental and a great help with the new fleet that was purchased. Chris was very social and well-liked by his co-workers. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

MINUTES

The minutes from the previous month's meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Huelat, seconded by Denise Bealor.

BILLS AND CLAIMS

The bills and claims in the amount of \$128,207.39 were unanimously approved on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jake Huelat.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Sub-Committee

None

Old Business

Mark Schreiber stated that a meeting still needs to be scheduled regarding solicitation on park property and he hopes to have that scheduled soon.

Mark Schreiber stated that work is continuing to be done on the priority list and cost estimates. The plan is to have a draft presented to the Board in May and a final in June.

New Business

Mark Schreiber updated on the continued progress of the trail system:

The Chessie 2 from Newport Landing past Lilly Lake to Tyler to First Street to the Transport facility is set to be completed by May. This is a federally funded project with the 20% match coming from the Healthcare Foundation.

The Clear Lake Greenway which is associated with the Truesdell reconstruction project which will soon. The section from McClung to Taylor Road is expected to be complete prior to Memorial Day. The trail work will begin in June.

The Chessie-Clear Lake connection (by the medical building) will be tied into the Clear Lake Greenway.

There are 2 parts to the Stone Lake extensions – Craven to Orchard will run along the roadway and the Beach house to Waverly bridge still needs some engineering. The City Engineer plans on doing a design and build with this portion and bid both projects together. The restrooms to be constructed for the mountain bike trail will potentially begin in the fall.

Mark Schreiber is requesting permission to enter into a lease agreement with Northwest Health for space in the Heritage Building for the Activity Center for the Older Adults. This would be in the lower level of what was formerly the Heart and Vascular facility. With this lease we would be required to pay the monthly utilities of \$2270 and the cleaning of the area occupied by the center. This will be a 3-year lease with 3 one-year options. This is pending lawyer approval. A motion to accept the lease with Northwest Health for the facility for the Activity Center for Older Adults was made by Denise Bealor, seconded by Jake Heulet. If the lease is approved the information would be released to the members and the community immediately. The move could possibly begin in May. The long-term plan is for a new facility. The funding for the center through the end of the year is through a grant through the Healthcare Foundation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mark Schreiber has been approached by a family willing to donate a bench at the overlook along the Stone Lake trail. With benches already being in place Mark would like to offer to dedicate the small overlook areas for a cost of \$3000 and \$6000 for the large area. This would allow the funds to be used to purchase memorial plaques to be placed in the areas and would also allow the purchase of interpretive signage for the area. The motion to approve the costs for the areas was unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Heulat, seconded by Karen Ellison.

Mark Schreiber has received the following request from the owners of the Blue Heron:

1) would be to allow the placement of a small loading pier at the north corner of Unity Park along the corner of the seawall that would be used for loading and unloading. This is the area where the fire rescue boat is docked as well as DNR and this would not interfere with them. The motion to allow the easement for the placement of a loading dock was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Denise Bealor. The launch in the area is not a public launch but is used by DNR, the Fire Department for lake rescues as well as the Blue Heron for putting in their docks. Motion passed unanimously.

2) would be to allow an easement for their new docks to overlap an area at Kiwanis Teledyne. The docks are being reconfigured and if approved by DNR, they would encroach park property near the Kiwanis Teledyne picnic shelter. This would be approximately 25 ft. A motion to allow the easement for the placement of the docks on the northside of the Blue Heron was made by Jake Heulat, seconded by Karen Ellison. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber has requested permission to allow Arts in the Park to allow miniature horses in the park on July 20 as part of their pre-show activities. The request was unanimously approved on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Jake Heulat.

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that on April 3 after receiving word from Chris Millers family that he may not make it through the day made the decision to allow any staff wishing to visit with Chris the time to leave work for the afternoon with pay. This amounted to 3 hours. The Clerk Treasurer agrees with the decision but has requested Park Board approval for State Board of Account records. The board unanimously approved the decision on a motion made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jake Heulat.

Brett Binversie has requested that the fees be waived for the heart screenings provided on May 13 from 8am-Noon by Team 265. The request was unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Heulat, seconded by Karen Ellison.

Board Member/Department Comments

The Clerk Treasurer is working on making slight changes to ordinances dated 1972 regarding what accounts donations/sponsorships can be placed into. All changes would be approved by the City Council.

Along with American Renolit, several trees were planted at Foundation Square for Earth Day. We are again offering Earth Day bingo that is also sponsored by American Renolit. Participants that complete their bingo card will receive a t-shirt.

Kiwanis Club will again be sponsoring a pop-up picnic at Allessee park on May 6 from 11am-1pm with another picnic at Rumely Park on July 15. A bike rodeo will be offered at Allessee Park with tennis lessons will be offered at each event.

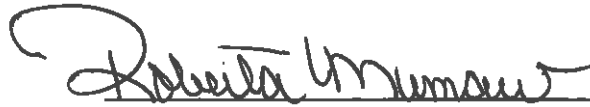
Kiwanis Club also had a cleanup on April 15 at Kiwanis-Teledyne.

Jake Heulat commended Kyle and the Beechwood staff on the condition of the golf course.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Jake Heulat, seconded by Denise Bealor.



Mitch Feikes, Preesident



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 5-17-23