

**LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOARD MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Jake Heulat who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also in attendance were Karen Ellison, Denise Bealor, Mark Schreiber, Kyle Cashmer, Sam Back, Brett Binversie and Roberta Mumaw.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A motion made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Denise Bealor to retain the current slate of officers was unanimously approved,

Mitch Felkes, President
Micole Messacar, Vice President
Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

RECOGNITIONS

None

MINUTES

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

BILLS AND CLAIMS

The bills and claims in the amount of \$103,168.26 were unanimously approved on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Karen Ellison.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that all information regarding the additional lodge facility has been sent to Baker Tilly as they will be doing a financial analysis. We will be working on finding a funding source to cover what the donation does not.

Mark Schreiber presented to the Board some cost estimates and funding options for the Kesling Park ball diamond expansion. Phase 1 will be creating the 2 additional fields and possible amenities. The field work is estimated at \$139,000; fencing is estimated at \$123,000, dug out work which could potentially be done in house is estimated at \$20,000. This number could come down with possible donated labor. Running electric to the diamonds is estimated at \$16,500. The concession stand from Lions Field could possibly be moved to Kesling to serve the additional diamonds. Currently there is \$99,100 remaining in the grant that was received from the Health Foundation, other funding sources could potentially be Creative Plays crowd funding and match with the Indiana Housing and Community Association this be up to \$100,000, additional grants for \$130,000 and additional sponsorship or donation opportunities to raise approximately \$120,000. Should all targets be met, that would exceed the main portion as well as alternates. Mark Schreiber is requesting permission from the board to start the fundraising and approve the construction of the 2 diamonds. A motion to approve the request was made by Denise Bealor, seconded by Karen Ellison. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Alison and Brian Gresham with the Indiana Arborists Association's tree climbing competition committee. The competition was held in Soldlers Memorial Park in 2023 and they would like to bring

the competition back for 2024. In 2023 the group performed their first aerial tree rescue for fire fighters and first responders as well as tree climbers. They had a total of 31 competitors. Prior to the competition the group did approximately \$8000 worth of tree trimming at no charge to prepare for the competition. For 2024, the group would like to use Cummings Lodge for four days September 26-29, as a nonprofit organization they are requesting a lower rate for the lodge. They will once again do tree trimming prior to the event. Mark Schrelber has recommended that the fee be waived for Thursday and Sunday and the nonprofit rate of \$245 per day be paid for Friday and Saturday. A motion to waive the nonprofit fees for Cummings Lodge for Thursday September 26 and Sunday September 29 was unanimously approved on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Denise Bealor.

Brett Binversie has been in conversations with Hometown Jams which is a local promotor about possible concerts at the Civic. Hometown Jams usually deals with venues that do not have a liquor license; they use the bar revenue to offset their costs. They are proposing a 60/40 split of liquor revenue exempting the first \$2000 in sales. They would also pay all required rental fees. All staffing, ticketing and promotion would be done by Hometown Jams. The request is to approve a one-time rental with the 60/40 split with the Civic receiving 60% of bar revenue with the first \$2000 exempt for with Hometown Jams on March 22. The motion was unanimously approved on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Karen Ellison.

Brett Binversie presented a list of building/guest polices for the Civic Auditorium to be reviewed by the Board. A finalized policy will be presented to the Board for final approval once it has been reviewed by Nick Otis, City Attorney.

Mark Schreiber requested approval from the Board to allow horses in the park for the WinterFest horse drawn wagon rides to be held Sunday January 28 at Cummings Lodge. The request was unanimously approved on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Denise Bealor.

Brett Binversie has been asked by the Clerk Treasurers office to receive Park Board approval to authorize the Clerk Treasurers office to process payment of tips to bartenders for credit card tips collected the night of event the following business day once the report is received. Tips collected are split equally between all bartenders. A motion to approve the request to allow the Clerk Treasurers office to process credit card tips for Civic bartenders was approved unanimously on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Denise Bealor.

BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Karen Ellison stated she felt that the La Porte Invitational went very well. Mark Schreiber agreed and stated it was a very successful event not only financially, but also for the national attention it brings to the Civic Auditorium as well as incredible entertainment to the community.



 Mitch Feikes, President



 Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 2.21.24