

LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOARD MINUTES
APRIL 17, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes, who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also attending were Marck Schreiber, Nicole Messacar, Karen Ellison, Denise Bealor, Jake Huelat, Brett Binversle, Kyle Cashmer, Karyl Feikes and Roberta Mumaw.

RECOGNITIONS

NONE

MINUTES

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

BILLS AND CLAIMS

The bills and claims in the amount of \$173,856.98 were unanimously approved on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUB-COMMITTEE

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that the city is beginning to discuss the placement and vendor for security cameras for City Hall and the Police station. Mark will be attending a meeting on Monday regarding this. The sub-committee consisting of Mark Schreiber, Mitch Feikes and Jake Huelat will meet after that and the Board will then be updated on the progress.

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber informed the Board that he is still working with Baker Tilly regarding the financing of the additional lodge. Once the report is complete there will be a plan put in place.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber requested approval from the Board to hire Nicholas Smith as the new Recreation Director. Mr. Smith will be coming from the Illinois area where he currently is the sports and recreation director at a Boys and Girls Club. The motion to approve the hiring of Mr. Smith as the Recreation Director was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jake Huelat. Motion approved unanimously.

Mark Schreiber is making a request to the Board to name the new plaza that is being constructed across from the Dennis F. Smith Amphitheater be named after Maria Fruth who is the retiring Executive Director of the Health Foundation of La Porte. The motion to name the Fox Park plaza after Maria Fruth was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Jake Huelat. The Board agreed that Maria Fruth has been a strong advocate for the Parks. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mark Schreiber is requesting permission to solicit quotes and project plans on a play structure at Hastings Park. A motion to solicit quotes and project plans was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor. Mark Schreiber stated that Big Comedy of La Porte has made a \$25,000 donation towards the project in memory of Amanda Sorg. The Park Foundation will match the donation with an additional \$25,000. This structure will replace the wooden structures that were previously donated by Big Comedy. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber is requesting approval to request quotes for a small-scale climbing structure at Rumely Park. The request to seek quotes for the climbing structure at Rumely was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jake Huelat. Mark Schreiber stated there was a recent donation made from the Jones Family. The motion was approved unanimously.

John Rubel with Planned Environment Associates presented to the Board the proposed locations for the kayak launch to be placed at Kiwanis Teledyne. Option A will be the preferred plan as it is the shortest length of path that will utilize the existing path. Options B & C would require more earthwork. The motion to approve option A as the design and put the project out for bid was made by Nicole

Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor. The plans have been presented to the donor family. The motion was approved unanimously.

Kyle Cashmer is requesting that the greens and golf fees be waived for the endowment outing if a donation of \$50 or more. The normal fee would be \$54. All donations will be placed into the endowment fund that is held by the Unity Foundation. A motion to waive the greens and cart fees with a \$50 or more donation for the endowment golf outing was approved unanimously on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jake Huelat.

Kyle Cashmer is also requesting that the greens and cart fees be waived for the Park Foundation golf outing. This is the first year for this outing that will be held on September 6. The point of the outing is to raise money for the foundation's annual campaign. The motion to waive greens and cart fees for the Park Foundation outing was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Jake Huelat.

Brett Binversie is requesting permission to purchase a used LED light wall from V-Sound productions, at a cost of \$52,000 the request is to also use \$10,000 in Civic Non-Reverting funds as well as borrow \$42,000 from the Eleanor Fox trust fund to be paid back over 7 years beginning in 2025 at 5% interest. This LED wall is 2 years old and comes with all that is needed including additional panels. The motion to allow the purchase of the used LED wall to be paid with \$10,000 from Civic non reverting as well as to borrow \$42,000 from the Eleanor Fox Trust Fund to be paid back over 7-years at 5% interest was unanimously approved on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Jake Huelat.

Mark Schreiber has received a request from the American Legion Post 83 to use Scott Field for additional parking as well as parking on the grass for motorcycle parking for their benefit poker run that will be held July 20. The request was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Karen Ellison.

BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Mark Schreiber stated that the City of La Porte has been named the first heart safe community and the park Department has received 5 AED's and Cabinets from the Health Foundation of La Porte that will be placed at the Civic, Beechwood and Park Office, as well as an AED from The Beats for Bud Foundation that will be placed at Unity Park.

Brett Binversie updated the Board on the upcoming events at the Civic:

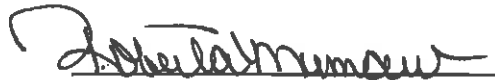
April 20 Magical Mystery Tour with the La Porte County Symphony
 April 27 New Day Foundation
 May 4 La Porte High School Prom
 May 11 Jimmy Buffett Tribute
 May 31 Jump/Classic Rock

Rick Cygan approached the Board regarding the parking on Waverly Road near the boat docks. There are no parking signs along Waverly Road, however parking along the road continues. Mr. Cygan has reached out to several City Departments with no action being taken. He feels this is something that needs to be addressed and feels it is a safety issue. Mark Schreiber stated that conversations have been had with the vendor regarding a resolution to the problem. There is no easy solution to the issue. Mr. Cygan also stated that the sign at Grangemouth and Wavery at the crosswalk is obstructing views. Mr. Cygan is also concerned with glass on the beach. Mark Schreiber stated that glass is not allowed and there are signs stating this.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.



Mitch Feikes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 5-15-24