

**LA PORTE PARK AND RECRETION DEPARTMENT
BOARD MINUTES
MAY 15, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes, who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those also attending were Nicoel Messacar, Thor Thordarson, Karen Ellison, Denise Bealor, Jake Heulat, Karyl Feikes, Brett Binversie, Kyle Cashmer, Mark Schreiber, Karyl Feikes and Roberta Mumaw.

RECOGNITIONS

Austin Shippy was scheduled to attend the meeting to be recognized for the building of the GAGA pit at Fox Park as part of his Eagle Scout project but was unfortunately unable to attend.

Mitch Feikes informed the Board that LaVentiana Culinary school sent cookies to the Board as a thank you for allowing them the use of the kitchen at the Civic Auditorium for their culinary classes.

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 \$146,703.31 were unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Karen Ellison.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

Mark Schreiber will be meeting with the lead donor for the additional lodge on Stone Lake tomorrow and will also be scheduling a meeting with the Mayor and the donor to discuss progress and how to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Craig Phillips Community Development and Planning Director with the City of La Porte is seeking permission from the Board to apply for an application for variances for the Scott Park Project. The board has previously endorsed the Notre Dame case study for the re-development of Scott field. The city has been actively seeking a partner to assist with this project. The City has been approached by Advantix Development Corporation, a not-for-profit development arm of the Evansville housing authority. They have completed over 1500 housing units throughout the state. They have experience doing projects that involve low-income housing credits. The city is looking at providing affordable housing in low to moderate income housing as well as housing geared towards veterans. The total number of units will be 14 single family homes. There are currently 3 parcels that will be made into 2 with 1 being used for development and the other being used for the park and playground. The motion to allow Craig Phillips to apply for the variances for the Scott Park Property was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Jake Heulat. The properties will be rent to own, with Advantix retaining ownership for 15 years. After 15 years, the property would be turned over to

the tenant. The property is owned by the City of La Porte but requires park board approval before any action is taken. Mark Schreiber recommends moving forward as there is no recreational value to the property. The City will maintain the current park property. The to allow the application for variances on the Scott Park property was approved unanimously.

Mark Schreiber presented a plan to the board for a short-term fix for the parking problems on Waverly Road near the boat launch that is operated by Hubers Marine. The plan would be to create a 450ft strip for off-road gravel parking on the south side of the road, then no parking signs would be placed on the north side. The traffic commission has approved this plan. Once approved Mark will present to the Hubers for their participation in the costs. This would require assistance from the park, street and the county highway department. A motion to approve the creation of a 450ft parking area south of the marina in Soldiers Memorial Park. Was made by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Jake Heulat. Thor Thordarson would like to know what will be done to protect patrons as they cross from that parking area. Mark Schreiber stated the speed limit in that area is 20 MPH, there is currently a radar speed sign in that area as well. The motion passed unanimously.


Mark Schreiber is requesting permission to enter into an agreement with Twisted Tiki, Inc to operate concessions at Stone Lake Beach House. They will be offering barbecue among other items. They will operate concessions during open beach hours and extended if they choose. With the contract they would pay 10% of gross sales. The contract will expire on October 31. A motion to enter allow Twisted Tiki, Inc to operate concessions at the Stone Lake Beach House was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Jake Heulat.

Brett Binversie is requesting board approval to extend the agreement with Hometown Jams with the terms 40/60 split of gross liquor revenue for events held on Thursdays and Sundays, and 50/50 split of gross liquor revenue on Fridays and Saturdays, with the first \$2000 being exempt. The extension would be through May 31, 2025. Hometown Jams pays rental costs as well as provides staffing. The motion to extend the agreement with Hometown Jams was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Jake Heulat.

BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Mark Schreiber commended the staff for the extra work they have done in the absence of the Recreation Director. He also commended the maintenance staff for their extra efforts due to the wet spring.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jake Heulat, seconded by Nicole Messacar. Motion passed unanimously.



Mitch Feikes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 6-12-24