

**LA PORTE PARK BOARD AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
BOARD MINUTES  
JUNE 12, 2024**

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

**RECOGNITIONS**

Mark Schreiber presented to the Board a Certificate of Appreciation from the Indiana Bass Federation who had their 2024 regional championship April 27-28 in La Porte.

**MINUTES**

The minutes from the previous Board meeting were unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Heulat, seconded by Denise Bealor.

**BILLS AND CLAIMS**

The bills and claims in the amount of \$181,560.99 were unanimously approved on a motion by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jake Heulat.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mark Schreiber has met with Mr. Bauer the lead donor for this project to discuss financing. Financing is still in question and the project will be removed from the agenda until financing can be secured outside of Mr. Bauer's gift.

Craig Phillips presented to the Park Board the option to purchase real estate at Scott Park. This has been approved by the Board of Works pending Park Board approval. There will be up to 15 single family homes built on the western end of the park. The playground area will remain. Mr. Phillips is requesting approval from the Board to move forward with the purchase option agreement. This would essentially be a donation of the property with an appraisal being done to give the value of the property. This approval would allow Advantex to move forward to apply for the tax credits with the state. Advantex would find out around November if they are approved for the tax credits that are needed for the project to move forward. Once approved they would work with the city as well as the Park Board to arrive at a final design for the project. A final site plan will be brought to the Park Board for approval. The motion to approve the option to purchase real estate property on the western end of Scott Park was made by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Karen Ellison. Mark Schreiber stated that from a department perspective the property has no recreational value and would be beneficial to the City's housing needs. There will be a park retained on the remainder of the property. Mitch Felkes clarified that this is a one-year option and will revert back and the property will not transfer to Advantex if no action is taken. The transfer of property is contingent on the tax credit approval. The motion was approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Todd Taylor, former Water Department Director updated the Board on the progress of the well construction in Soldiers Memorial Park. The 2 wells have been drilled with the 1<sup>st</sup> well going through the required 24-hour test. The 2<sup>nd</sup> will test next. Tim Warner is currently looking at options for the structure to enclose the wells. Once that is decided on that design will be brought to the Park Board for approval. The construction of the pipeline will be the next phase and will potentially be done through boring with minimal disruption to the area.

Jamie Novak with the Engineering Department presented plans for the restroom facility to be constructed at the mountain bike trail head. The building would be restrooms as well as a storage area for the mountain bike club to store the tools used to maintain the trails. The building will be

approximately 20 x 30 (600 sq ft) there will also be a drinking fountain as well as bike racks. The plan is to potentially re-use the existing bike racks that are currently at the trail head. Mark Schreiber stated this facility will be open 7am-7pm April – October. Jamie Novak stated this project will be funded through a grant from the Health Foundation. Mark Schreiber stated once the building is complete there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony to acknowledge the donation. The motion to construct the restroom facility at the mountain bike trail head was unanimously approved on a motion by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Denise Bealor.

Mark Schreiber opened the one quote received for the excavating work to be done for the kayak launch at Kiwanis Teledyne. The quote was received from Pavey Excavating for concrete work and excavating in the amount of \$12,335. This amount is within range based on PEA's estimate. Mark Schreiber recommends awarding the work to Pavey pending legal review. The motion to accept the bid from Pavey Excavating was unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Huelat, seconded by Karen Ellison.

Mark Schreiber recommended that we begin the process of placing security cameras within the parks by starting with the park office and maintenance facility since both facilities have internet access. The city has chosen to move forward with New Age Telecom for their purposes at City Hall and the Police Department. They have already started their installation process. Having the same provider for all areas would be beneficial. A motion to install security cameras at the park office and maintenance facility at 250 Pine Lake Ave with New Age Telecom being the provider pending funding was made by Karen Ellison, seconded by Jake Heulat. Jake Heulat's concern is that Beechwood and the Civic are not listed in the request. Mark Schreiber stated that other facilities would be added in the future. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber requested permission to enter into a vendor contract with Robin Churchill who operates Myla's Boutique to sell bathing suits, swimsuits, etc. at 2 pop up events at Stone Lake. The dates requested are June 15 and June 22. This would be a standard vendor contract with 10% of gross sales paid to the park department. The motion to enter into a contract with Robin Churchill for the dates requested was unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Heulat, seconded by Denise Bealor.

#### **BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Mark Schreiber introduced Cole Smith as our new Recreation Director. Cole started at the department in mid-May.

Brett Blversie updated his upcoming events at the Civic Auditorium:

Eclipse Dance Recital  
Metallica Tribute Band  
Little Mermen  
Taco Fest(downtown)

Mark Schreiber stated there are 2 movie nights coming up, June 14 and June 28 as well as the night bike ride on June 21. As well as a pickleball tournament and disc golf tournament at Kesling Park.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jake Heulat, seconded by Denise Bealor. Motion was unanimously approved.



Mitch Feikes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 7-17-24