

**LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
BOARD MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 18, 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, Nicole Messacar, Mark Schreiber, Cole Smith, Kyle Cashmer, Brett Binversie, Karyl Feikes and Roberta Mumaw.

**RECOGNITIONS**

None

**MINUTES**

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

**BILLS AND CLAIMS**

The bills and claims in the amount of \$139,972.59 were unanimously approved on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Howard Jones with NEIS Engineering on behalf of the City of La Porte Water Department is requesting permission to drill 2 additional test wells in Soldiers Memorial Park. The 2 wells that were recently completed have been producing up to 1,000 gallons per minute. The average flow for the entire City is about 2,000 gallons per minute. The additional wells are needed to extend the life of the existing wells. Mark Schreiber stated the placement of the wells would not interfere with any future development of the area. The additional wells will be placed behind the gravel parking lot at Lions Field #1 and between Lions Field #2 and the mountain bike trail. The motion to allow the placement of 2 additional test wells near Lions Field #1 and #2 was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor. The motion to place the 2 additional test wells was approved unanimously.

Kyle Cashmer is proposing a new golf car lease beginning in November. This lease would provide 55 2025 Yamaha carts on a six-year lease for \$53,460 per year. We would be opting out of our current lease that includes 50 2020 Yamaha carts for \$36,038 per year. The current lease is paid by the Clerk-Treasurer's office through CEDIT funds. With the new lease, Beechwood will be required to pay the difference of \$17,422 per year. This would be paid from Beechwood Capital Non-Reverting funds. We will be working with the Clerk-Treasurer, City Attorney and City Council to amend the city ordinance on Beechwood operational profits. Currently Beechwood keeps up to \$50,000 of its annual operating profit in the Beechwood Capital Non-Reverting Fund. If approved, Beechwood would keep all of the annual operational profits. The motion to approve the new 6-year golf cart lease was unanimously approved on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Thor Thordarson.

Mark Schreiber is requesting permission from the board to allow draft horses in the park in October for wagon rides along the Chessie Trail. The dates have not been set and we will

work with the draft horse association to make sure there will be not damage done to the trails. The motion to approve the request was approved unanimously on a motion by Thor Thordarson, seconded by Karen Ellison.

**BOARD MEMBER/DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Mark Schreiber stated that the kayak launch at Kiwanis Teledyne Park has been installed and we would like to thank Jim and Kathy Nova for their donation to the Park Foundation for the launch.

Mark Schreiber informed the board that the restrooms at Fox Park have been renovated by our maintenance staff with funds provided through UEA.

Brett Binversie stated that the upcoming Sunflower Fair will have approximately 130 vendors, 3 bands and food trucks. Nawty will be performing downtown on Friday as well as several food trucks will be on hand. Other Civic events include The Arena Rock Show on October 19 and the Taylor Swift tribute on October 24.

Mark Schreiber stated that the Civic Auditorium will become 100% self-sustaining in 2025. There will be no tax dollars supporting the Auditorium.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Denise Bealor, seconded by Nicole Messacar. Motion approved unanimously.

Mitch Felkes, President

Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 10-16-24