

**LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
BOARD MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2025⁴**

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also in attendance were Denise Bealor, Jake Huelat, Nicole Messacar, Mark Schreiber, Cole Smith, Brett Binversie, Karyl Feikes, and Roberta Mumaw.

RECOGNITIONS

Mark Schreiber presented Brett Binversie a plaque for his 10 years of service to City of La Porte as the Director of the Civic Auditorium, and his role has expanded to Civic and Downtown events director. Brett unfortunately will be leaving the city after the La Porte Invitational in January for a new job with the Visitors Bureau.

Mark Schreiber stated we received the National Park Award from the National Softball Association. The award was given for Kesling Park.

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 \$114,861.30 were unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Huelat, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

John Diedrich spoke to the board regarding a letter of support to be submitted to DNR for the approval of additional docks at his property on Pine Lake near Kiwanis Teledyne. Mr. Diedrich is wanting to install approximately 18-20 new docks with 10 of them to be used for transient docking. Mitch Feikes has a concern with the docks potentially blocking the view from the park. The motion to support the project was made by Jake Huelat, with no second, the motion died.

NEW BUSINESS

Valerie Wallace, who is the La Porte County lorette presented information to the board regarding poetry benches. Ms. Wallace is hoping to have 100 benches throughout the county, approximately 20 within the city, to have poems attached to them. The poems would be available through a QR code displayed on or near the bench. The project would be funded through grants. Ms. Wallace is currently seeking a letter of support from the Park Board for the project. The park board would decide where the benches would be located. A motion to allow Mark Schreiber to write a letter of commitment for this project was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.

Mark Schreiber informed the board that the property at the parcel of property on Pine Lake Ave located behind the parcel at 426 Pine Lake Ave. This is part of a greater parcel that encompasses about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the wetland as well as another piece of property that borders the wetland. A portion of that property that was currently owned by the county was recently sold. There was less than half an acre that was sold and purchased by Dan Strieter. At this time the city will retain its property with no plans to do anything with that property. Mr.

Strieter is wanting to be a good neighbor with the city. He will continue to operate his fireworks business out of the facility and will also be making building improvements. Mark Schreiber is suggesting that a couple of the park board members meet with Mr. Strieter to discuss his plans and any future projects.

Mark Schreiber presented to the board a proposed fee increases for our 2025 field usage fees. The increases are as follows:

KESLING PARK

\$750 per (all four diamonds)
\$500 per day (two diamonds)

JEFF DECAMP/RON REED FIELD

\$300 pr day
\$50 per night per field for lights

ALL OTHER BASEBALL /SOFTBALL FIELDS

\$125 per day
\$50 pr night per field

OTHER VENUES (MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL/DISK GOLF COURSE/OTHERS)

\$250 per day

\$30 per hour for maintenance worker (min. 1 worker during scheduled times if multiple games are scheduled)

A motion to approve the proposed field usage increase was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Jake Huelat. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Schreiber is requesting the proposed changes to the kayak storage lockers. The original storage locker rates required a 3-year commitment with 3 different pay options:

3 yrs at the time of signing contract \$1350
Yearly payments for 3 years at \$500 per year

The lockers are currently at about half capacity, and we are looking to increase that.

The proposed changes are as follows:

\$350 per year

No longer required 3-year commitment

Any current renters or recently expired contracts will receive one year free at the end of the contract.

Any lockers not leased by May 1 will be available to rent for \$50 per month.

The motion to approve the proposed kayak storage locker fees was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.

Mark Schreiber requested approval from the board to extend Kyle Cashmer's golf contract for 2025. The motion to approve the extension of Kyle Cashmer's golf contract was unanimously approved on a motion by Jake Huelat, seconded by Denise Bealor.

Mark Schreiber stated that the Park Foundation has agreed to fund a small master plan for pickleball. At this time Mark is requesting approval to put out an RFP for a pickleball master plan. Pickleball is growing in popularity. There are currently 4 dedicated courts at Kesling that are used on a regular basis. The motion to put out the RFP for the pickleball master plan to be paid for by the park foundation was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.

Board Member/Department Head Comments

Mark Schreiber passed out the 2025 Park Department budget. He wanted to make specific mention of the Civic Auditorium. The Auditoriums 2025 budget will operate from 100% non-reverting funds.

Mark Schreiber stated that Thor Thordarson has resigned from the Board as he has moved out of the city limits. Karen Ellison will also be leaving the library board and will no longer be their representative on the board.

Mark Schreiber thanked the board for their leadership and commitment to the department. The staff's efforts for the year have also been tremendous. We have a very talented and hard-working staff.

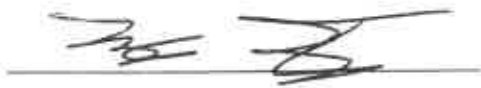
Brett Binversie informed the board that there are 3 concerts coming up at the Civic:

December 20 The Christmas Wizards

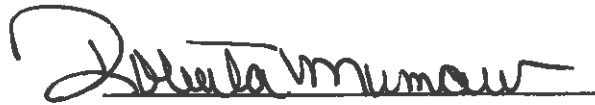
December 27 Pop Rocks/Boy Band Review

December 28 Bob Segar Tribute Band

The motion to adjourn was made by Jake Huelat, seconded by Denise Bealor. Motion passed unanimously.



Mitch Feikes, President



Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 1-15-2025