

**LA PORTE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 15, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by President Mitch Feikes who also led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance. Also attending the meeting were Ryan Seaburg, Denise Bealor, Nicole Messacar, Mark Schreiber, Cole Smith, Kyle Cashmer, Roberta Mumaw and Karyl Felkes.

A motion to nominate Mitch Feikes as Board President was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.

A motion to nominate Nicole Messacar as Board Vice President was unanimously approved on a motion by Denise Bealor, seconded by Ryan Seaburg.

A motion to nominate Roberta Mumaw as Board Secretary was unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.

**RECOGNITIONS**

None

**MINUTES**

The minutes were unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.

**BILLS AND CLAIMS**

The bills and claims in the amount of \$117,375.89 were unanimously approved on a motion by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rich Pagels and his family have recently moved to the area and stated that our park system is a beautiful area. And we are blessed to have such great amenities in our area. This was the main deciding factor in his family's decision to move to the area. It is obvious that the staff is dedicated to caring for the parks.

**SUB-COMMITTEE**

None

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mark Schreiber is recommending that Gregory Pletsch be hired as the Civic & Events Director. Gregory has a bachelor's degree in marketing and advertising from Indiana University South Bend and has recently worked as the hospitality manager at the Kroc Center in South Bend. Three candidates were interviewed for the position by Mark Schreiber, Andrea Smith (City of La Porte HR director), Betsy Parkison (Civic Advisory Board), and Lauren Huffman (La Porte City Council). The motion to accept the recommendation of hiring Gregory Pletsch as the Civic & events director was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Denise Bealor. Mr. Pletsch is looking forward to the job and carrying the Civic Auditorium forward. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mark Schreiber has a request from the La Porte Community School Corporation to use the Civic Auditorium for their end of the year honors program for their employees. The date requested is Thursday May 15. The request is to waive the rental fee (\$1,300) for the building

but charge the labor rate of \$65 per hour. They would also pay for any additional add-ons, such as linens, bar staff, etc. The motion to waive the rental fees for the La Porte School Corporation's end of year employee honors banquet was unanimously approved on a motion by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Nicole Messacar.

Mark Schreiber has received a request to hold the La Porte County Spelling bee at the Civic Auditorium. This was previously hosted by the Kankakee Valley REMC and held at South Central School. They will not be holding the event this year and it will this year be hosted by St. John's school with the rental fee waived, but the labor rate of \$65 per hour paid. The date has not been finalized but could potentially be March 5, 12 or 19. These are all Wednesdays. The motion to waive the rental fee and pay the \$65 labor fee plus any add-ons was unanimously approved on a motion by Ryan Seaburg, seconded by Denise Bealor.

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

Mark Schreiber would like to in the future have a discussion with the Board regarding the use of Cummings Lodge for events that are strictly for profit. Currently the policy for the lodge is for family events and not for profit groups.

Mark Schreiber stated that the La Porte Invitational had another great year. This requires a lot of hard work and community involvement.

The downtown ice rink has had its best year with attendance to date of 995. This year we were able to secure sponsors and offer some free skate Fridays and also for buy one get one on Sundays.

Mitch Felkes welcomed Ryan Seaburg to the Board. Ryan will now be representing the La Porte School Board. Mitch has been representing the school board and will now finish the remainder of Thor Thordarson's term as he has moved out of the City. Mark Schreiber stated that we are still waiting to hear from the library board regarding their Park Board representative.

Kyle Cashmer stated that Beechwood profits this year were \$77,900. This will all be retained by the golf course.

The motion to adjourn was made by Nicole Messacar, seconded by Ryan Seaburg. Motion was unanimously approved.

  
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Mitch Felkes, President

  
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Roberta Mumaw, Secretary

Approved: 1-15-25